



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of September 27, 2015



1 John 1:1-4

What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have observed
and have touched with our hands,

—concerning the Word of life—
that life was revealed,
and we have seen it
and we testify and declare to you
the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us—

what we have seen and heard
we also declare to you,

so that you may have fellowship along with us;
and indeed our fellowship is with the Father
and with His Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things
so that our joy may be complete.

Sermon Outline

- This week we had an introduction to the book of 1 John. We looked at the author, purpose, and context.
- We found that John wrote this letter to a) expose false teaching about Jesus and b) give believers assurance of their salvation.
- The biggest problem the first century church was facing at the time of this writing was Gnosticism, which said that Jesus was fully God, but now fully human.
- This false teaching undermined Jesus' atonement, resurrection, and it led to disunity within the church.
- In the first four verses of chapter 1 John spoke to Jesus' humanity and divinity and taught how right thinking about Jesus leads to right living within Christian community.

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What is the first Olympics you remember seeing?
- Have you ever tried an "As seen on TV" product? Did it work?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. Two weeks ago, LaMorris Crawford talked about coming to a point in his life where he asked, "Is this all there is?" This week in the sermon Pastor Casey started off by talking about the phoniness of the world we live in. Was there ever a time in your life where you had such thoughts? How did you respond?
2. What difference does it make to know about John when reading this letter that supports the reality of who Jesus is?
3. Why did John write this letter?
4. What is your understanding of Gnosticism? What beliefs in today's culture misrepresent who Jesus is?

5. Why does it matter if we have a correct understanding of Jesus?
6. What evidence of the reality of Jesus did John point to?
7. How did John refer to Jesus' divinity?
8. In verse 3 John tells his audience why he was declaring these things to them. What was his reasoning?
9. How should fellowship with Christ impact our fellowship with other believers?
10. How can we apply what we learn in these verses?
11. What do you feel God wants you personally to take away and act on?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?
- How can we pray for your spiritual growth tonight?
- What other prayer concerns do you have?