

# 1 John 1 Series 1

## Depending on Jesus to walk in the light

October 9, 2015

### I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Prepare a couple of simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to lay aside their busyness and tiredness and prepare their hearts to come before God.

### II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God's face, and lead them into God's presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. **MISSION ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_, and their needs are: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

#### B. CHURCH MINISTRY:

- 9/13-12/13 Experiencing God: Equipping Class @ 11:30am
- 10/14 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- 10/17 Mission Talent Benefit Show for missionaries and daughter churches.
- 10/23-24 Leader's Annual Planning Retreat
- 10/28 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- 10/31 Hallelujah Party

C. New comer: \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm new comers' name before the meeting.  
For sick members, friends or relatives: \_\_\_\_\_ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

### III. WORD, 45 mins.

Through sharing and discussing God's word, the group applies it to their daily life.

A. **Sharing the message from last Sunday's sermon:** (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday's sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

### B. Topic of the week: Depending on Jesus to walk in the light

**Verses:** 1 John 1:1-2:2

**Memorizing Verses:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Preface:

1 John was written during John's latter years. At the time, the church in Asia Minor faced the Gnosticism heresy. John especially wrote this letter to the church believers. The meaning of Gnosis is knowledge. Gnostics exalted "knowledge" to be the power of salvation, above the importance of "faith". They thought only those who received Gnosticism and their mystery knowledge can be saved. They made man into a dualistic body and soul. They thought material things are evil. They thought the flesh and the world are polluted and they were against the incarnation of Christ. They thought that Christ only lived in the world as a phantom. They thought the Spirit of God descended on Jesus' body during His baptism and the Spirit of God left Him when He was nailed on the cross. The Gnostics went on two different paths when it comes to their conduct and ethical behavior. One is hedonism: they saw the body is the prison of the soul. So, they should give over to all fleshly desires in order to thoroughly corrupt it. The other is asceticism: they saw that since the flesh is evil, they need to work hard to suppress and get rid of all desires, not giving the flesh any room to be stimulated. In response to these heresies, John especially emphasized that Jesus is the God whom John and the disciples have personally heard, saw, and touched and is the Word of life. God is light and is love.

1. A steady faith in Jesus is the fruit from the word of life (1:1-4)
  - a. Jesus is the One whom John and the apostles have personally experienced (1:1-2): Christ is the source of life, He was there in the beginning and is the Word of life. The apostle John had personally experienced this. He followed Jesus, personally listened to His teachings, saw the miracles Jesus performed, and even personally touched Jesus with his hands. When John first-handedly experienced this and passed this to us, we can also personally see, personally hear, and personally touch Jesus in the same real way. When we testify for the Lord, we are sharing what we have personally experienced and received. We

also need to personally experience the word of life ourselves. We need to receive it in order to have it.

- b. The fruit of receiving the word of Life (1:3-4): 1) The believers loved each other (1:3): When we receive the word of life from the apostles and from the Bible, this allows us to fellowship with the Lord of life. Fellowship in Greek is *Koinonia*, which is to have things in common. It contains the sense of sharing and participation. It is a kind of intimate relationship between two people and points to the fellowship we have with the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christians can fellowship with each other because we believe in the one and only Heavenly Father, we have salvation in Jesus Christ, and we have the indwelling Holy Spirit. 2) Receive the complete joy (1:4): The fruit of fellowship with the Lord is that our joy will be complete. This is a kind of complete joy that flows out from our hearts and there is no other thing that can replace it.
2. To have the word of life, we must walk in the light (1:5-7)
    - a. God is light (1:5): To walk in the light is to not be in the darkness. Darkness is the power of Satan (Luke 22:53). John the Baptist testified for the light, calling people to believe in Him. Jesus is the true light and He lights all the people living in the world. We have seen His glory, which is the glory of the only begotten Son of the Father. Jesus came into the world to manifest this true light so that we can be able to see.
    - b. To fellowship with God is to walk in the light (1:6-7): To fellowship with God in Christ Jesus is to be in the light of God. Then we will be walking in the light and not be in the darkness. When light comes in, darkness will be dispelled. Light and darkness can't co-exist. Light can overcome the darkness. If we say we fellowship with God, yet we sin in the darkness, we are speaking a lie and are not walking in the truth. Therefore, when we walk in the light we will have no darkness and we will not easily sin. We will not be under the control of the power of Satan. We can walk freely.
  3. By depending on Jesus, we can keep from continuing to sin (1:8-2:2)
    - a. If we sin, we will be forgiven (1:8-10): This is what John is

saying to the believers. From the moment we have fellowship with God, the precious blood of God's Son Jesus can wash away all the sins we have committed. Yet believers will still sin (1:8): because we are sinners, we have a sinful nature in our hearts. We will still experience temptations from the devil. Therefore, we can't say we are without sin. This would be to lie to ourselves and not understand the truth of what it means to walk in the light and have fellowship with God. Therefore, we need to confess our sins (1:9-10), which is to come before God's presence and acknowledge the mistakes and sins we have committed. When we confess and repent, God's salvation will come to us and God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and wash away all our unrighteousness. On the other hand, when we don't acknowledge our sins, or even say that we have never sinned, that is speaking a lie and shows that we don't understand the truth, and that God's word is not in our hearts.

- b. Jesus is the advocate and propitiation (2:1-2): John once again exhorts the believers, using his position as an elder to call the believers as little children. When we understand the truth of forgiveness, the most important thing is that we don't want to sin again. When we unintentionally sinned, Jesus is our advocate (2:1), (Greek *parakletos*), helper (John 14:16). It is like after we sinned, Jesus can be our defense attorney in court, to defend for us and plead for us. Because Jesus is without sin, only the sinless and righteous One can be the substitute for sin. Only He can plead for forgiveness on our behalf. Jesus is our propitiation (2:2): Propitiation in the original language has the meaning of reconciliation. When people sinned against God, they should receive the just penalty. However, through Jesus Christ being nailed on the cross, He received the penalty of death and became the substitute for all of our sins. His precious blood is for the forgiveness of our sins, to pay for all the penalties of sin, so that we as repentant sinners can receive God's grace, and be reconciled with God. Christ was once offered as the sacrifice for our sins, just to save us as the propitiation sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross, not only for your and my sins, but also for the sins of the world, because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to them, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs of the members):

1. Have you ever been in a completely dark place where you can't even see your own hands? How did you feel at that time?
2. Why did the author, John emphasize that he personally saw and touched Jesus with his own hands? What meaning does this have for the Christian faith and for you?
3. How can we fellowship with Jesus? What is the condition for fellowship? What is the fruit of fellowship?
4. If Christians unintentionally sinned, what should they do? How can we help them?
5. Please have the cell group members come before God in a quiet moment to confess their sins and repent, or to be reconciled. Be obedient to the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:**

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You because You sent Jesus Christ to give His life and bleed on the cross for the world, to take away our sins so that we can have fellowship with You. Please help us to keep depending on Jesus to walk in the light and not sin. Also, we need to come before You and acknowledge our sins. You are faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Make us whole. We thank You and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

**4. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.