

Living in the Light

A STUDY IN 1ST JOHN

Pastor Dave Patterson
Living in the Light Part 1
4.18.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[John 8:31-32]

So Jesus was saying to the people who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, **continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then you are truly My disciples... And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.**”

[1 John 5:13, AMP]

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** (with settled and absolute assurance) that you have eternal life.

Know / Greek **eido** = To discover by inspection, examination and experience

We are in a time and season where people need clarity about what the Gospel is to knowing Him in matters of gender, identity, and sexuality.

[Matthew 7:21-24]

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

There are impostors among us that have a conceptual image of religion but who do not have a true relationship with Jesus.

[1 John 1:1]

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. **We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands.** He is the Word of life.

[1 John 1:2-3]

This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. ³We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.**

Fellowship / Grk = <i>Koinonia</i> : close relationship, intimacy, partnership and sharing, to walk with, spirit to spirit communion
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We have such diversity across ages, demographics, and ethnicities, but what brings us all together is that we have the same bloodline!

[John 1:4, AMP]

We are writing these things so that your joy may be full ***(the Joy we have experienced through salvation)***.

[1 John 1:5-6]

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: **God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.** So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

[John 8:12]

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The light of God is not a location; it's a Person.

- 1. The light of God exposes things that are trying to destroy us.**

[John 3:19]

God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.

We're all in a process, and no one is trying to rush you. Walk in the light and in unbroken fellowship with Jesus. Through repentance, we come closer to Jesus and get rid of the garbage that's tried to hold onto us.

God never exposes brokenness in your life to destroy you; it is meant for you to be purified so you can walk in full potential.

2. The light of God gives continual direction.

[Psalm 119:105]

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.

3. The light of God eliminates distortion and confusion.

[Psalm 73:17, TPT]

But then one day I was brought into the sanctuaries of God,
and in the light of glory, my distorted perspective vanished.

[1 John 1:6]

If we claim to have fellowship with him and **yet walk in the darkness**, we are lying and not living out the truth.

When John speaks of walking in darkness, he indicates a pattern of living. This does not speak of an occasional lapse, but of a lifestyle.

–Guzik

This does not mean that a man must be perfect before he can have fellowship with God; if that were the case, all of us would be shut out. But it does mean that he will spend his whole life in the awareness of his obligations, in the effort to fulfill them and in penitence when he fails. It will mean that he will never think that sin does not matter; it will mean that the nearer he comes to God, the more terrible sin will be to him.

–Barclay

[1 John 1:7-8]

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

I want to invite you to bring all your sin and all your brokenness into the light and into close relationship with Jesus.

[1 John 1:9, AMP]

If we freely admit that we have sinned **and confess** our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises] and will forgive our sins and **cleanse us continually** from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].

FOR MONDAY—

1. Examine your heart and your walk with God to gauge how consistently you are walking in the light.
2. Find fellowship or strengthen what you have already started.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How does the Word of God help us grow? Why is context important to practically applying what we read? From the Gospel of John to his letters as an older believer, what do you think softened his tone and approach?
2. What influence did the Gnostics have on the early church? What were their claims? How would that doctrine conveniently provide an excuse for those in sin?

3. Why is it important to inspect and examine your faith?
(Consider Matthew 7:21-24)
4. With whom are you having fellowship (*koinonia*)? What truly connects and builds community with God and others? What is the connection between unbroken fellowship and joy?
5. How does the light of God give direction?
6. In what areas does the light of God need to eliminate distortion and confusion in our world today?
7. What marks a lifestyle of “walking in the light”? Is there any area of your life, where those around you are consciously choosing to walk down a dark path? What is needed to continually cleanse ourselves?
8. How are you walking: are you continually walking in the light? Why do you think it’s possible as a believer to be a visitor of the light, while still walking in darkness? What happens when we try to navigate life apart from Him? Where is the light of God trying to take you, your family, or your community in the days ahead?