

What are you doing here?

THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

for April 12 sermon

I John 1:1-2:1

GUIDELINE SPOTLIGHT

I Statements: During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using I statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as you, they, them, the church, us, or we.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on the first four verses, how does John describe his own physical encounter with Jesus? What specific words does he use to prove that Jesus is a real person?
2. (v. 3-4) Why does John insist that his eyewitness account of Jesus is necessary for us to have fellowship with one another? According to these verses, what is our fellowship with God and with one another based on? ***The word for fellowship is koinonia (shared life). John is saying we can't have true community if we are following different versions of Jesus. Our unity isn't based on our hobbies, politics, or life stages; it's based on the "Word of Life."***
3. "If our gathering was based on anything other than knowing Christ (like just being a social club), how would that change the way we handle conflict or disappointment?"

4. John says that if we walk in the light, two things happen: we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us. In your own words, what does it mean to “walk in the light”? Is it about being perfect, or is it about being seen? ***Walking in the light isn't about sinlessness (that would be impossible), it's about sin-confession. Light makes things visible. Hiding sin is hiding in darkness.***

5. Why is it often scarier to be really seen and known by others than to be seen and known by God?

6. How does “claiming to be without sin” (v. 8) actually prevent us from knowing Him? If knowing God requires coming into the Light, why is admitting our “darkness” (sin) the only way to stay in relationship with Him? ***Share something personal here, leader. If I pretend I don't have a temper, but I actually do, you don't really know me; you know a mask. If we tell God and others we don't have sin, we are effectively calling Him a liar (v. 10) because He sent His Son specifically to die for that sin.***

7. Looking back at your week, in what moments did you feel the need to hide your “darkness” from others or from God? If you truly believed that you have an Advocate in Jesus who has already paid the price, how would that change the way you interact with our DGroup today? What is one area of your life you've been keeping in the shadows that you need to bring into the light of this community? ***You might want to share first to allow for deeper vulnerability in your group.***