

NEW CREATION CHURCH

Small Group Guide

Week of May 10, 2026

Small Group Guide: Small Groups Discussion Guide: 1 John 1 – Part 1

(Based on May 3, 2026 Teaching)

Key Scripture Passages

- 1 John 1:1-4

Key Takeaways

1. **Christianity is rooted in eyewitness reality** - John and the apostles were credible witnesses who saw, heard, and touched Jesus Christ.
2. **God's redemption plan existed before creation** - Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world, meaning God embedded redemption into His eternal plan.
3. **Jesus IS eternal life** - He didn't just bring eternal life; He is the life itself.
4. **Fellowship flows from the life of God within us** - Our unity is deeper than ethnicity, profession, or interests; it's based on sharing God's eternal life.
5. **Vertical fellowship enables horizontal fellowship** - Our relationship with God directly impacts our relationships with one another.

Discussion Questions

1. John emphasizes that he "heard," "saw," and "handled" Jesus. Why is it important that Christianity is based on historical, eyewitness testimony rather than myths or legends?
2. What does it mean that Jesus was "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8)? How does this change your understanding of God's love for you?
3. Jesus invited the disciples to "handle me" after His resurrection. In what ways has God invited you to "experience" Him personally? Share a time when God became more real to you.
4. The message emphasized that "ever before you thought of the sin, ever before that evil happened, God's plan was redemption." How does knowing that God's redemption plan preceded your mistakes change how you view your past failures?
5. The sermon states, "God is the one calling you back to Himself, not pushing you away because of your sin." How does this truth challenge common misconceptions about God's character?
6. The sermon explains that our fellowship is based on "the life of God that's on the inside of us," not on surface-level similarities. How should this truth shape the way we interact with other believers who are different from us?
7. What does it mean to be "in fellowship" versus just being "in relationship"? Can you have a relationship with God but be out of fellowship with Him? Explain.

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Practical Application

Strengthening Vertical Fellowship

- **Daily "Handling" Jesus:** Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to "handle" Jesus through His Word. Don't just read—meditate, pray, and ask Him to make Himself real to you.
- **Confession and Restoration:** If sin, unforgiveness, or strife has disrupted your fellowship with God, take time this week to confess it and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- **Gratitude Practice:** Each morning, thank God that His redemption plan for you existed before you were even created.

Strengthening Horizontal Fellowship

- **Reach Out:** Contact someone in the church you don't know well and invite them for coffee or a meal. Build fellowship beyond surface conversations.
- **Reconciliation:** If there's someone you're in conflict with or have offended, take steps this week to reconcile and restore fellowship.
- **Encourage an Eyewitness:** Share your personal testimony with someone this week—be an eyewitness to what God has done in your life.

Prayer Focus

Thank God that Christianity is not based on myths but on the real, historical Jesus. Ask Him to help each person experience Him more deeply this week and to walk in genuine fellowship with Him and with one another.

Remember: The goal is not just to discuss information, but to experience transformation through genuine fellowship with God and one another.