

Small Group Session – 1 John

Who is the Author?

The Apostle John, “the disciple Jesus loved” (John 13:23)

Who is the Audience?

The only clue we have to who it is written is, “my dear children” (1 John 2:1). It is obviously a group of people that John had a close relationship with, but it is unclear as to who, specifically.

When was it Written?

As one of the last letters of the New Testament to be written, it was probably written by John around 85-90 AD.

What is the General Theme?

To reassure us of our salvation in Jesus, to remind us to look out for false teachers, and that love is the foundation of our life in Christ.

Outline of 1 John chapter 1

Section 1: The Word of Life (1:1–4)

1. The Word made known (1:1–2)
2. Fellowship with the Father and the Son (1:3–4)

Section 2: Walking in the Light (1:5–10)

1. God is light (1:5)
2. Truth vs. deception (1:6–7)
3. Confession and cleansing (1:8–10)

Read 1 John 1 together

Deep Dive

1. Why does John emphasize that he heard, saw, and touched Jesus? Why is this important for our faith?
2. How would this letter be received differently if John had never met Jesus?
3. What does it mean that “God is light, in Him there is no darkness”?
4. Why is confession of sin necessary for fellowship with God?
5. How does verse 9 encourage us when we struggle with sin?
6. Why do you think that verse 10 says that when we think we are perfect (without sin), we call God a liar? Why is this bad?

Challenge

Shine Some Light on It:

- All things nasty grow in the dark. When we refuse to acknowledge our sin and hide it from everyone (even ourselves) it just continues to grow and consume us. It is time to change that.
- Spend 10 minutes each night this week asking God to reveal any sin in your life that you need to confess and repent from.
- Write those convictions down on a piece of paper and use it as a reminder that God will help you overcome those sins through the work of Jesus on the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

Background Check on John:

- It is pretty cool that the same guy who wrote this letter got to hang out with Jesus.
- Spend some time this week looking back at the Gospel of John and see just how close he was to Jesus.
- Think about how he interacts with Jesus, what he sees Jesus do, and understand how that probably affected how he wrote this letter.

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