

For the week of April 30-May 6, 2017

Based on Dr. Clark Peddicord's message from April 29-30

## “What is the Church and why should I care?” - 1 John 1

**Best Way to Prepare for Your Group?** Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, a speaker modifies the sermon right before service. So, please allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

### [Format for the Evening]

#### WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

**KEY PASSAGE:** *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*—1 John 1:5-10

**REVIEW:** This week we review Dr. Peddicord's sermon as preparation for next weekend's “State of the Church” assembly with Pastor Tucker and the other leaders at Calvary Boise. We want to examine what the Bible says about the “Church” and who we are as God's pilgrim people. We also take a look at the imperative of being open and accountable to other believers who are with us on our journey with God. We are called to be “comrades in the Spirit” or, as the Book of Acts calls us, “followers of the Way.”

#### THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: “Walking in the Light” – what does that mean for each of us?

Throughout the Gospel and Epistles of John, life in the Spirit is presented using the metaphor of light and darkness. “God is Light,” the Apostle says: this is the absolute starting point of all true spirituality. According to John there is no “dark side” of God: “In Him there is no darkness whatsoever” (1 John 1:5).

Walking in the Light means having a culture—an “ecology”—of integrity, accountability, and openness to those who are with us on our journey to the Heavenly City. The key problem that destroys genuine Christian fellowship is NOT sin itself, but when we try to keep it hidden and unexposed to the light of God's love in the group of brothers and sisters that God has given us to journey with—our “comrades in the Spirit.”

**TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Light and darkness in our lives**

1. According to 1John 1:6, what is inconsistent with saying one has fellowship with God?
2. What picture does John use for life in the Spirit (1 John 1:7)?
3. What does “walking in the Light” mean to you?
4. 1 John 1:9 spells out further what it means to walk with God. What can we do when sin causes us to stumble or fall?

**THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Fellowship with God is linked to fellowship with other believers**

For the Apostle John, then, the key to life with God is fellowship with Him; that means living day-by-day, hour-by-hour in the light of His presence. But “walking with God” also means, for John, walking with other believers, “comrades in the Spirit,” to whom we are open and accountable in our lives.

**TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Are there other believers with whom you have a relationship of openness and accountability and whom you can trust with deeper knowledge about your life and struggles?**

1. When in my life have other believers helped me on my journey with God?
2. Am I linked with a committed band of other believers whom I can trust with the deeper areas and concerns of my life – even my “secrets”?
3. Are there situations in my daily life right now at work, home, or school that could benefit from the counsel and prayer of others whom I trust in Christ?
4. Is there anything that hinders me from moving into a deeper friendship and commitment with these people? If so, what is that and is there any way to overcome it?

**TAKE TIME TO PRAY:**

Please pray that God would show us how to walk in the Light together. Ask that God’s Holy Spirit would lead and guide us as a body of believers at CC-Boise. Pray that next weekend will be a time when God meets with us as a church in a special way.

**TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:**

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests in addition to next weekend’s “State of the Church” time for CC-Boise, and enjoy each other’s company. That’s what family does.

**Note:** *Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at [tucker@ccboise.org](mailto:tucker@ccboise.org) with your insight.*

## **WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS**

*I do not pray for these alone but also for them who will believe in Me through their word. –John 17:20*

Do we realize that praying for one another, especially those in God's service, is as much our Christian responsibility as offering our money for the necessities of those in need? Do we count prayer among the philanthropies that we consider supporting? Do we devote our resources of time and energy to this valuable cause? Do we understand the importance of taking up prayer to move others to a better life? Praying is as much a part of the Christian witness as our lifestyle choices. It is as necessary as setting an example of a life grounded in honesty, sobriety, and of every religious virtue. Praying for men is a debt due them, to be paid like other obligations. –D. W. Faunce

### **About the Author:**

Daniel W. Faunce was an American Baptist minister who lived from 1829 until 1911. He was a noted speaker and author.

### **Our Community Group:**

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### **Prayer Requests for Our International Missions**

- Please remember to pray for the missions in India and other parts of the world that your group has been paired with this year. Ask God to give the leaders wisdom and to meet all their needs according to His perfect will. You will be receiving more specific prayer requests periodically. Our brothers and sisters in India have been unable to get us requests this month. So if you receive requests that seem familiar it is because they have asked us to continue to pray for some of the needs we learned about last month. Please continue to pray for the crisis in Manipur. Pray that we will be able to continue to provide food for those we serve especially the children and other community members with HIV/AIDS.
- Please pray for the local Send Hope office. The work is so important and sometimes heartbreaking. Last week one of our Home children, Lamech, passed away. Another young boy, Anil, is very ill also. Pray that God gives everyone the ability to focus on these greater things, while they do the daily tasks necessary for the ministry's success.
- Please continue to pray for the Lajlars in Slovenia as they struggle with adjusting to a new, enlarged family in an old, tiny home. Pray that their new 5-year-old son will overcome his frustrations with the language and have God's peace.
- Pray for Faith Anderson in Romania who needs a wisdom tooth extracted.
- Pray for Saul Alvarez in Tepic. Their church needs quite a bit of repair. Also pray for the family whose son was kidnapped and for Saul to have wisdom in ministering comfort to their hearts.

### **Prayer Requests for our Local Ministry**

- Pray for the upcoming Women's Quarterly Prayer meeting to be held May 8. Pray that the women of this church will unite to seek revival in their own spirits as well as in their families, neighborhoods, community, and in this church.
- Pray for Alyssa, our church receptionist, who is pregnant and recently discovered that her baby has some significant health issues. Please pray that God will bring miraculous healing and that Alyssa and her husband Dan will walk in faith not fear.
- Pray that members of the church family will fill every available volunteer slot and that they will know the joy of helping others.