

HANDOUT

Session 1: 1 John 1:1–2:11



DISCUSS

In your experience, what does enjoying your relationship with God look like? In your life? In others' lives?

In 1 John 1:5–10, what metaphor does John use to describe God and our relationship to Him?

What difference does it make in your perspective of life to know that God doesn't expect you to be perfect?

How might that change the way you envision your Christian walk? Why?

1 John 1:6–10. Since the light reveals our sin, what is John promising in this passage?

Why is denying that we have sin a lie?

If we're to take John at his word, what is true about our hearts if we pretend that even the little sins don't matter?

In your experience, what's the hardest part of admitting your sinfulness?

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Does our sin separate us permanently from God?

1 John 2:7–11. **How is love as it's laid out in 1 John different from the world's picture of love? Are there any similarities between Tony's definition and love that the world presents? What are they?**

Why does hate for a fellow believer separate us from fellowship with God (what John calls plunging into darkness)?

How does John's command to love our fellow believers sit with you? What have you found difficult about loving God's people? What has come easy? Why?

What one step could you take this week to move toward the light and out of the dark?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Take a few minutes this week and specifically ask God to open your eyes to one way in which you can grow in fellowship with Him. Write it down and pray that God would help you work on it.

Write: Take ten minutes this week and write out a letter to yourself, describing what you hope to learn about your relationship to God and His people in this study. Challenge yourself to grow in one area we've looked at in this session.

Connect: Identify one other believer (at your church, work, in your family) that you haven't really connected with before. Reach out to that person with a handshake and smile, and show them the love that comes through Jesus.

Memorize: If you haven't already, commit 1 John 1:9 to memory. Then, three times this week, recite the verse to yourself and spend two minutes confessing the sin that God's light shows in your life.

Act: Identify one area in your life where you've been less than loving toward someone else. Confess that lack of love, and then do one thing this week that to begin to show them love again.