



“Stay Close”

1 John 1

Small Group Plan

Think about the facts of light:

- ✓ It is the first thing God created (Genesis 1:3-5)
- ✓ It is equated with God’s covenant (Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 42:6)
- ✓ It is a sign of God’s presence (Psalm 119:11-12; Isaiah 60:1-3; John 3:19)
- ✓ It pictures a life made whole by God (Ephesians 5:8-9)

The presence or absence of light can determine whether we walk confidently or stumble. Warmth, energy, life, and more all hang in the balance when the light goes out. When the darkness threatens the best advice is always “stay close” to the light.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How is spiritual darkness like physical darkness?
- How would you compare spiritual and physical light?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— AWESOME POWER —

1 John 1:5

⁵ *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

- How does God bring clarity to life?
- How has God brought a sense of meaning to your life?
- How does God answer confusion?

— DEADLY SEDUCTION —

1 John 1:6, 8, 10

⁶ *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth ...* ⁸ *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us ...* ¹⁰ *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

- What is really happening when someone “claims” fellowship with light while actually “walking” in darkness?
- What are some of the steps taken prior to deceiving yourself?
- Why would a person claim to be without sin?
- Why does God’s word have no place in such a life?

— VICTORIOUS LIVING —

1 John 1:7, 9

⁷ *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, purifies us from all sin ...* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- How does it feel to shower and be clean after a day of dirty work?
- Describe the difficulties and the benefits of being made clean by God.
- Why is confession the best alternative to pretending?
- How would you describe a group that is truly having fellowship?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What is your reaction when someone “shines the light” on you?
- Describe what you think a “confessional” lifestyle would look like.
- If a person who was confused, fearful, and uncertain asked for your help, what advice would you give them?
- What would make God’s light brighter in your life?
- Close by asking God for greater clarity, purpose, and vision.