

Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Three

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) When you were young, were you afraid of the dark? If not, what were a few fears that you had as a child? What are a few fears that you have today?
- b) For those who are working from home these days, where do you most often work in your house (office, kitchen, living room, etc.)? What are your favourite parts of working from home? What are your least favourite parts?

Passage and Discussion

Read 1 John 1:5 - 1 John 2:2

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) Verse 5, reminds us that the words we have read in our passage are the very words of God, not the ideas or opinions of the author(s). Why is it important for us to be reminded of this truth? How does this truth change the way that we read the text?
- c) In our passage, John uses the mutual exclusivity of darkness and light to teach us about the Gospel. Why is it important for us to understand that "God (Jesus) is light; in Him there is no darkness at all"? How does this truth shift us away from understanding Jesus simply as a good teacher or role model?
- d) John is emphasizing that there is darkness in our world, by comparing it to the light. Would you agree with this truth? What are a few examples of ways that our world is dark?
- e) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that we cannot only understand darkness as being "out there". Rather, we need to recognize that this darkness is inside of us. Why do you think that this is a difficult truth for people to understand? Do you think many people outside of the church would agree that we are inherently sinful?
- f) This passage teaches us that we are called to be set apart/to be light in the world around us, which is darkness. Have you understood your role in the world around you using these ideas? How does this truth change the way that we should live our everyday lives?

- g) This passage also reminds us that fellowship with God is possible; we have been given the right to become children of God. As a group, share about a few ways that our identity as children of God should transform us. How can we grow in our identity as children of God?
- h) As children of God, we are called to come before God and be honest with Him about our sin. Why do you think it can be difficult for us to be fully honest with God, even if we know He already knows everything about us? How can we encourage each other to do this through accountability?
- i) Read **John 3:19-21** and discuss what this text says about walking in the light. In light of this, what are a few practical ways that we can “walk in the light” in our everyday lives?
- j) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that true Christian fellowship means that we must work together to live in the light and fight against the darkness. Do you think that’s how many Christians approach church/Christian community today? How can we work together to do that as a Small Group?
- k) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, take a few minutes to create a list of the ways that God has brought light into the darkness in your own life. Praise Him for the ways He has walked with you through different seasons, even the dark ones, in your life.
- b) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that we must confess our sin to God, in order to truly live in the light. This week, take a few minutes to confess your sin to God, and be honest with Him about areas where you are struggling in your life.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to ‘check-in’ about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for this new series that we are walking through as a church. Pray that God would use it to help each of us become more like Him, and to help our church become more like the community He wants us to be.