

Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 19, 2021

1 John 1:1-4 – Who is Jesus?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- When did you first hear about Jesus?
- Has your view of who Jesus is changed through the years? How so?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

John claims Jesus to be God. If Jesus is God, then what He teaches should influence our lives in a great way.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

1 John is written by John, the disciple of Jesus. Let's take a brief look at John...

Read – Mark 3:17

- Why do you think Jesus gave John and his brother James these nicknames?

Read – Luke 9:51-56

- Why did Jesus rebuke James and John?

The 4th-century theologian Jerome tells a story about the Apostle John. John was old and frail, unable to walk, so his disciples would carry him into the gathering of believers on the Lord's Day. Every week these were his words to the congregation: "Little children, love one another." This went on week after week, until at last, more than a little weary of these repeated words, his disciples asked him, "Master, why do you always say this?" "Because," John replied, "it is the Lord's command, and if this only is done, it is enough."

- How do you think a “Son of Thunder” becomes, “The Apostle of Love”?

Read – 1 John 1:1-4

- In verse 1, what is John explaining about Jesus?
- Why do you think John wanted everyone to know that they HEARD Jesus with their own ears, SAW Jesus with their own eyes, and TOUCHED Jesus with their own hands?
- What do you think it was like to hang out with Jesus in the flesh?
- Have you ever longed to be able to SEE, HEAR, and TOUCH Jesus? Why?

Read – John 16:5-7

- Why do we have it better now, then John did in his years with Jesus?

In 1 John 1:2 John makes the claim that Jesus **IS** eternal life.

- What is the difference between Jesus **GIVING US** eternal life, and Jesus **BEING** eternal life?
- In verse 4, what does John say is the point of this letter he is writing?
- Why do you think many do not see following Jesus as a source of joy?
- How have you found joy in following Jesus?

TAKING IT HOME

Read - C.S. Lewis quote – *“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

- How can this thought process clarify things for us?
- If Jesus is LORD... how should that effect our lives?

Read – Luke 6:46-49

- What does Jesus identify as the blessing of following Him as LORD?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS