

First John
Spring 2026
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Week 2

Chapter titles:

What did you name them?

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

(1 John 1:1–4 ESV)

Moving from the details to the premise.

What is the premise of this letter at the outset? What do you notice?

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that 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 ESV)

Particularization - This is the message: and here are the details.

Themes:

- Participation in the life of God and his body, the church.
- Entry begins with receiving the proclamation of the Word.
- Contrast between light and darkness.

What are some questions that arise out of this?

For instance, “what is fellowship?”

What might we glean from a close reading of the text? John clearly wants us to know something that will make him full of joy if we get it. What is it? Or, since most of the rest of the book fields this question, what part of that answer can we learn from chapter 1?

How does one walk in the light? (more answers forthcoming the further we get in.)

Sin. Is there a before and after? Subsequent readings will give us a better understanding of this question.

Homework:

1. Read 1 John 1-2 through in one sitting. Multiple times if you can.
2. Name each paragraph like you did the chapters.
3. As you read, note the words that seem to pop up a lot. If you notice two ideas pitted against each other (contrast), note that as well.
4. Be ready to discuss Chapter 1 next week

NOTES: