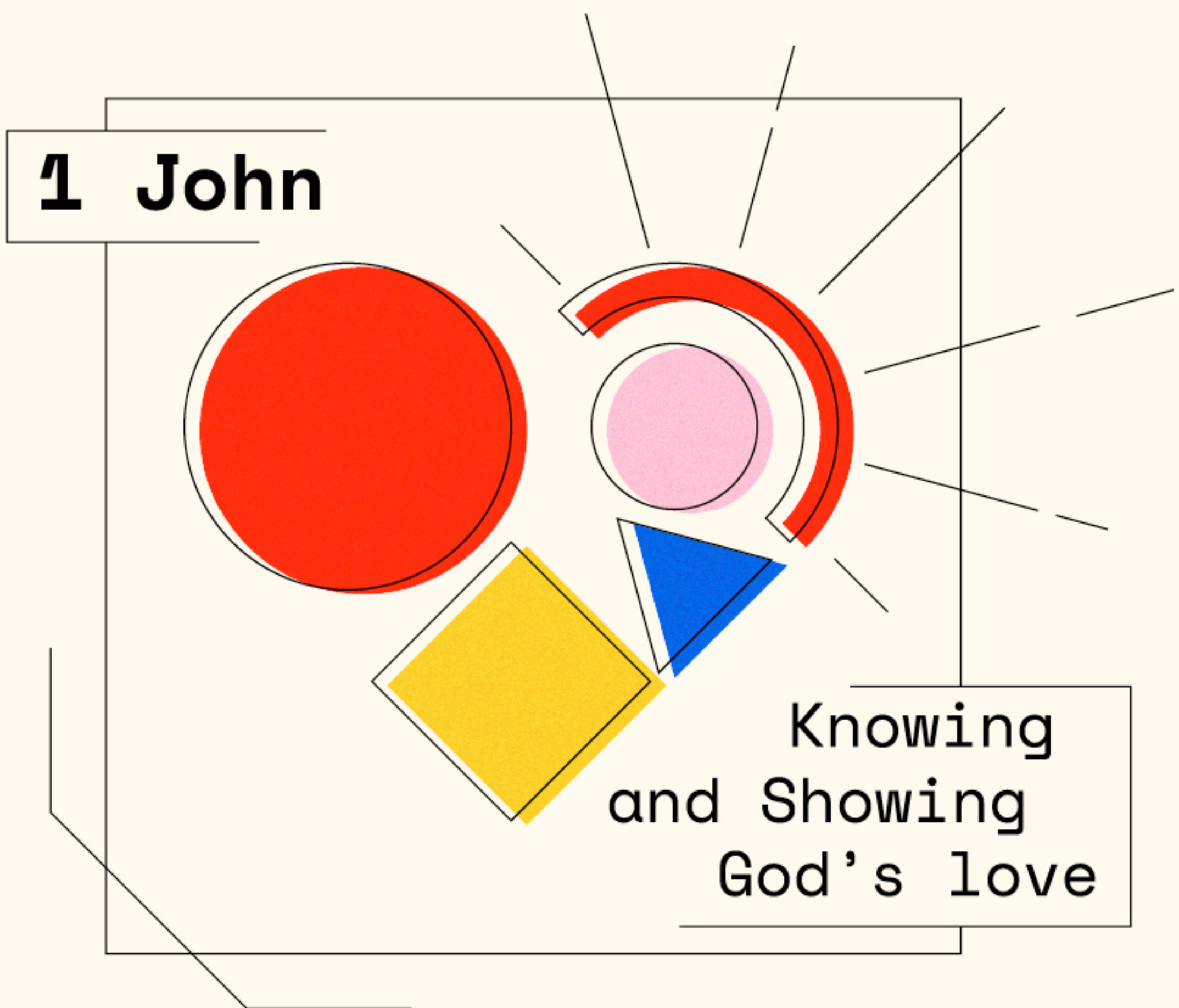


Small Group Notes

Sermon: 9 January 2022



Introduction

On Sunday Martin kicked off our new preaching series on the letter of 1 John.

The letter was written by the apostle John around A.D 90 for two main reasons.

The first was to address false teaching that had entered the church particularly around the topic of the person and work of Christ and also on the call to holy living for the believer.

The second reason was to encourage the church in the greatness of our God and the privilege we get to follow him.

Scripture

John 1:1-4

Overview

John gives no greeting at the start of his letter but instead jumps straight into laying 2 foundational truths about Jesus that are essential for everything else he is to say.

The Eternal Christ

John begins by declaring that Jesus Christ is "that which is from the beginning." Jesus Christ is the eternal one. The divinity of Jesus

had been questioned by false teachers across the early church and here we see John emphatically stating that Jesus is God.

The church must hold a big view of God, believing He is greater than any trouble, success or hardship we may face. A high view of God brings perspective to every season of life.

We see that Jesus is also eternal life, He is the way to live forever, to enjoy fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Church.

The Incarnate Christ

Secondly, John shows us how it's possible for us to know the eternal life that is Christ - through the incarnation, God Himself coming to the world born as a baby.

We see John declare that he had heard, seen & touched Jesus. God who was out of reach because of sin came to us, He spoke words of eternal life, He revealed eternal life and He shared eternal life. He does the same today: we can hear God, see God and feel God in our everyday lives.

John ends these first 4 verses by declaring that knowing Jesus the eternal one and incarnate one is how we may know complete joy. He is good news, His offer of eternal life is good news and getting to walk each day now and forever with him is good news.

Questions

1. Why is important for our everyday to know Jesus as the eternal one?
2. How have we misunderstood the offer of eternal life?
3. How can you grow in genuine fellowship this year with God & with the church?
4. When was the last time you heard God for yourself? What did He say?

Spend some time praying for one another that we would hear the voice of God and experience the presence of God.