

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Sermon Title: That You May Know (Week 1)

Text: 1 John 1:1–4

Theme: The Word of Life

Big Idea: We don't follow a myth or a memory—we follow the Word of Life, revealed and offered to us. He is the spring, and He places the cup in our hands. In receiving Him, we join in His purposes and find joy.

1. Opening Reflection and Accountability

Begin by inviting each person to share how they practiced last week's commitment or grew as a disciple.

- What steps did you take?
- What was challenging?
- What did you learn about yourself or the Lord through it?

Remind the group: *This is not about perfection—it's about practice.*

2. Sermon Summary

John writes to a community shaken by disillusionment and confusion. Instead of arguments, he starts with experience—what he has heard, seen, gazed upon, and touched. The truth isn't abstract—it's personal, embodied, and relational.

Main Points:

1. The Trustworthy Witness (v.1)

- John and others don't testify based on hearsay but on deep, personal experience: hearing, seeing, closely contemplating, and touching Jesus.
- Our faith is grounded in firsthand witness—and we too are called to be witnesses of what we know.

2. The Incarnation and the Nature of Jesus (v.2)

- Jesus is not merely a messenger of life—He is life itself.

- Eternal life is not distant or future-only—it was revealed and made tangible through the Incarnation.

3. The Reason (vv.3–4)

- The goal of this testimony is *fellowship*—with God, with Christ, and with one another.
- And as we walk in this fellowship, joy is made complete—both for us and for others.

Summary Statement:

We don't follow a myth or a memory—we follow the Word of Life, revealed and offered to us. He is the spring, and He places the cup in our hands. In receiving Him, we join in His purposes and find joy.

3. Guided Discussion Questions (Using Bloom's Taxonomy)

Remembering

- What four ways did John describe their experience with Jesus in verse 1?
- What does “Word of Life” mean in this passage?

Understanding

- Why do you think John emphasizes physical experience (hearing, seeing, touching)?
- How does John's use of “eternal life” differ from how we often think of it?

Applying

- In what ways have you experienced Jesus personally—heard, seen, or sensed His presence?
- How can you intentionally step into deeper fellowship this week—with God and others?

Analyzing

- What does this passage reveal about the nature of Christian community (koinonia)?
- How is Christian joy different from mere happiness or pleasure?

Evaluating

- What standards do you use when determining whether something is true? How does that compare to John's witness?
- How can we evaluate the voices we listen to today in light of this passage?

Creating

- Write or share a short "witness" of how you've encountered the life of Jesus in a real, personal way.
 - What would a joy-driven approach to witnessing look like for you this week?
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4. Scripture Storying Exercise

Parallel Story: Luke 24:36–49 — Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Instructions:

1. Have someone read the passage aloud.
2. Ask a volunteer to retell the story from memory.
3. Invite the group to help fill in anything missed.
4. Reflect together on the themes.

Story Connections:

- Jesus invites His disciples to "touch" and see Him—just as John describes.
 - The witness of His resurrection brings peace, understanding, and a mission.
 - Joy and fellowship flow from this encounter.
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5. Storying Discussion Questions

- What did Jesus do to help the disciples believe He was truly alive?
 - How does this story help us understand John's testimony in 1 John?
 - How did the disciples respond to Jesus' presence and words?
 - What parallels do you see between their commission and our own?
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6. Deep Practice Challenge

Invite each participant to commit to a specific practice this week:

Choose one:

- **Enter the Fellowship:** Reach out to someone you've been spiritually disconnected from and take a step toward deeper fellowship.
- **Live as a Witness:** Share a brief story of how you've experienced Jesus with a friend or family member.
- **Let Joy Be Your Aim:** Do one intentional act this week to multiply someone else's joy in Christ.

At the end of group time, ask each person to write down what they will do and briefly share it with the group. Begin next session with follow-up.