



Grace Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: If It's Real It Shines

Date: 9/20/26

1

Connect

Not tied to the text — gets everyone talking early.

- What's one thing from your week worth celebrating?
- Tell us about a time someone showed you real, no-strings-attached love — maybe when you least expected it. How did it affect you?

2

Recap

Anchors everyone in the text — no prior knowledge needed to answer.

1 John 1:1–4 (CSB)

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message or this passage?
- John says he's writing about what he has heard, seen, observed, and touched concerning Jesus (v.1). Why do you think he stacks up four different senses instead of just saying "I know Jesus is real"?
- According to verses 3–4, what does John hope will happen for the church now that he's shared this firsthand account?

3**Discovery**

Digging into what the text means — okay if only a few voices carry it.

- Why do you think John felt like he couldn't stay silent about what he had experienced with Jesus?
 - What does this passage reveal about God's character?
 - John wrote this letter partly because false teaching had people in the church wondering if they were even really saved. Why would firsthand experience of Jesus create fellowship and unity, while "special knowledge" tends to create division?
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4**Application**

The funnel narrows into life application and vulnerability.

- Where do you see this same pattern in your own life? — real faith producing visible light — in your own life, or in someone else's life that you've watched closely?
 - Think of someone whose faith "shines." What do they actually do differently day-to-day than someone who just believes facts about God?
 - Sunday's message named simple, ordinary ways light shows up — a meal for a new parent, an invite to church, checking on someone going through a hard time, even a smile. Which of these feels most natural to you already? Which one stretches you?
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5**Prayer / Response**

Occasional action step — not required every week.

- How can we pray for you this week?
 - Name one person in your school, neighborhood, or workplace God has already placed in your life. What's one specific, concrete way you could let your light shine toward them this week?
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