



## Sermon Discussion Guide

11.06.22 Message | Scott Bates | 1 John 1:1-9

### Key Scriptures:

*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.*

*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.*

- 1 John 1:1-9

### Message Highlights:

- God did not design us to be alone.
- Rethink Christmas is an opportunity to look at the consequences of a consumer and materialistically driven world and ask how we can follow Jesus in a counter-cultural way.
- Spending resources is not the issue; what we spend them on and why we spend it is the issue.
- “Being alone is scary, but not as scary as feeling alone.” -Amelia Earhart.

### Conversation Starter:

Name some of the practical hindrances of being in a dark room. Alternatively, name some of the hindrances of walking in the darkness, apart from the light of Jesus. Where do you see similarities?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. What does it mean to you that in God, there is no darkness at all?
  - a) How would your life look different if you were still walking in the darkness, apart from God? How does the contrast between light and darkness fuel your worship of the Lord?
  - b) Remembering our spiritual poverty apart from the Lord is key in remaining humble and reverent toward God, our source of light. What exactly is spiritual poverty to you, and how can we ensure we remain in that posture before God?
2. Operation Christmas Child gifts are not ultimately about the toy, but rather the gospel message that is shared through the giving of the toy. What item or gesture can you give to someone that might act as a gateway to sharing the gospel (i.e. bringing a meal to someone in need)?
3. It is difficult to live life in isolation, apart from good community and especially apart from God. Yet, to some, life alone seems more appealing; why do you think this is?
  - a) What are some of the challenges of living life in a good, close community with other believers?
  - a) What are some of the fruits that come from pushing through the challenges?

**Pray:**

*Father God, you are our light and salvation! Apart from you, we are impoverished and without hope. We praise you, today and always, out of the recognition that our everything is found in you. You are the first and the last, and we thank you for your pursuit and love for us. May we be cognizant of the light you bring, and turn toward you this Christmas season rather than to a consumer-driven mindset. In your son's name we pray, Amen.*