

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 9, 2005

Passage: 1 John 1:1-4

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:13

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read 1 John 5:10-13. What was the purpose of his gospel (John 20:31)? Are these the same purpose or different? To whom is he writing in his letter? What does this tell you about assurance of salvation?
- (b) What does John tell us about the nature of salvation – what *makes* a person a Christian (vv. 10-12)? How does understanding this affect our understanding of assurance?
- (c) What word appears repeatedly in this little epistle (2:5; 2:21; 3:14; 3:24; 4:13; 5:2; 5:13)? What does this tell us about the purpose for this letter?
- (d) Read Acts 8:26-39. What did Phillip share with the eunuch that led him to Jesus? When the eunuch asked to be baptized, what did Phillip tell him was required? What does this tell us about the nature of salvation?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:13 together. Talk about what it means to be sure you are saved. Can Christians have doubts? Read Acts 8:26-39. How does a person become a Christian? What are we required to do in telling others? Pray together for someone you know that does not know about Jesus.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read 1 John 1:1-5. Compare this to John 1:1-5. Mark phrases that are similar. What terms does John use to describe Jesus?
- (b) What does John say about the trustworthiness of his testimony? Why does he emphasize these? What is similar in Peter's testimony in 2 Peter 1:16?
- (c) John specifically mentions that the Word of Life was "handled." What does the use of this term in Genesis 27:22-23; Luke 24:39; and 20:27 tell us about the importance of this testimony?
- (d) What theological error did John confront in his letter (2:22)? What seems to be the concern about this error (2:23; 4:1-3)? How does John counteract this idea in the opening verses?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 4:1-3. Talk about the Incarnation. Why was it important that Jesus come in the flesh? Couldn't God save us without becoming flesh and blood? What makes Christianity unique? Talk together about the significance of the coming of Christ. Spend some time praising God for sending His son on our behalf.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read 1 John 1:2. What does John say about this "life"? *Who* is John talking about (also see John 1:4; 11:25-26 and 14:6)?
- (b) According to 1 John 3:5, *why* did Jesus come? What do Romans 16:25 and 2 Timothy 1:10 say about the reason for His coming?
- (c) In 1 John 1:2, what is the *purpose* of sharing this news? Who is this message for (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20)?
- (d) What terms does John use to describe their announcement of this news in verses 2 and 3? What do each of these words mean and what do they tell us about what it means to be a witness for Christ?
- (e) Read Acts 13:26-39. What did Paul declare to the people of Antioch? In 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, what did Paul declare as the essence of the gospel?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. Talk about the gospel. What is it? What are the essential elements that we must share? Pray together asking that God would give each a opportunity to tell someone about Jesus this week.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read 1 John 1:3. What is the result of our sharing this news with others?
- (b) What is the essence of this life according to John 17:3? How does Paul describe it in 1 Corinthians 1:9?
- (c) How does this add to what we usually think of as the purpose of eternal life?
- (d) What other aspect of fellowship does John mention in 1 John 1:3? What did Jesus say about this in John 13:34-35 and 17:21?
- (e) Read Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:3-6. Why is he thankful? What kind of fellowship is he talking about?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:3. Talk together about the importance of fellowship with other believers. What do we gain from gathering together as believers? Share about a time when the fellowship of another believer gave you encouragement.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) Read 1 John 1:4. What is another reason that John has written this letter? Compare this with John the Baptist's testimony in John 3:27-29.
- (b) What does this tell you about the nature of the Christian life (Romans 14:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:8)?
- (c) What are some reasons that Christians lose their joy? How can assurance and fellowship protect believers from losing that joy?
- (d) According to 2 John 4, what gave John the greatest joy?
- (e) In 1 John 2:1, what is another reason that John has written this letter? What encouragement does John give for when believers fail to live this way?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:4 and Philippians 4:4-5. Why is joy an important characteristic of the Christian life? How is our joy part of our testimony? Spend some time talking about how God has blessed your life this week and praise Him for all He has done for you!

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

Read 1 John 1:1-4. Talk together about the gospel. What is the gospel? Why should anyone believe the incarnation and the resurrection? How should our lives bear testimony to the truth of the gospel? Discuss some ways that you can be more effective in bearing witness to the good news of eternal life.

*What have you learned today about the essence of Christianity?*

**DATE:** January 9, 2005

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***What is Christianity?***

*“This life was manifested and we have seen it and bear witness.”*