

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 1:1-4

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share one thought or truth from last week's lesson, discussion, or lecture that lingers with you today.
 - a. Were you able to share a part of the study with someone or apply it to your life in a particular way? How?
2. With this lesson we have included study notes by Pastor Chuck. You may want to look these over before you begin your study in I John or refer to them while you are doing your lesson.
3. Read I John 1: 1-4. Notice that this first paragraph is divided into two sentences in the KJV (King James version). Choose one word from each of the sentences that expresses the writer's desire for those who read this letter:
 - a. I John 1:1-3
 - b. I John 1:4
4. How would you have liked to have breakfast with Jesus on the shore of Galilee? John, the writer of this letter did. See John 21:(4-11), 12.
His eyewitness account of Jesus in I John 1:1-3 presents irrefutable historical evidence that Jesus was all he claimed to be. If you had had John's opportunity to *dine* with the risen Savior, Jesus, what would you have wanted to say to Him?
5. Ask the Lord to open your heart and mind as you study these verses. Write your prayer here.

*O, how I love Him, Savior and Friend!
How can my praises ever find end!
Thru years unnumbered on heaven's shore,
My tongue shall praise Him forevermore.*

A.B. Christiansen

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 1:1-3

1. What must it have been like to actually walk with Jesus along the dusty roads, hear Him speak, be in the ship when He stilled the wind and the waves, see Him transfigured on the mount? Capture the wonder and reality and power of Johns eyewitness account in the opening verse of I John by listing in the left-hand column the physical evidence he gives concerning Jesus.

John's Account I John 1:1	Challenge: Support with scripture
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.
d.	d.

Challenge: In the righthand column support John's eyewitness account using scriptures.

2. Observe and note what Peter says about being eyewitnesses of Jesus. II Peter 1:16-18

Challenge: Explain the meaning of the phrase "that which was from the beginning".

See Pastor Chuck's study notes.

3. *Seen* and *looked upon* (I John 1:1) are not the same thing. The words *looked upon* mean more than just *saw* Him. They mean to *scrutinize, gaze on, watch as one would a drama. Look upon* Jesus from John's record in I John 1:1. Put yourself in John's place for a moment. What would it have been like to be with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration: to touch the nail prints in His hand as Thomas did? Use one word to express your wonder.

- a. Can you begin to understand now why John wanted to *declare* or *proclaim* Jesus through this letter? He wants Christians everywhere to *know* that Jesus Christ is actually Who He claimed to be and let that truth penetrate and transform their lives. Why was this declaration so important to establish at the onset of his letter?
- b. Although you have not with physical ears *heard*, nor with physical eyes *seen*, nor with physical hands *touched* Jesus, how has He made Himself a reality in your life?

*He left His Father's throne above,
 So free, so infinite His grace!
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race!
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O my God, it found out me.*

Charles Wesley

THIRD DAY: Read John 1:1-3

1. What is Jesus called in I John 1:1c?
 - a. Jesus not only preached the Word of life; He was the *Word of Life*. Verify this by the Gospel of John 1:1-4 and John 14:6.
 - b. What does John 1:14a reveal about the Word?
 - c. Jesus, God's Son, the Word, came into our world to reveal God the Father. He was and He is God's Word to the world.
Record in your own words what the Gospel of John 14:9,10 reveals about this.
2. Notice the parenthesis surrounding I John 1:2. Write phrase by phrase what it says about the *Word of Life*.
 - a. Define the word *manifested* which appears twice in this verse.
 - b. What phrases in I John 1:2 support the truth of Christ's Incarnation?
3. Jesus is called the *Eternal Life* in I John 1:2. Why? See John 17:2,3.

*Simon Peter replied, Master, to whom shall we go?
You alone have the words that give eternal life,
And we believe them and know You are the holy Son of God.
John 6:68 TLB*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 1:1-3

1. Now, we come to the subject and verb of this long sentence (I John 1:1-3). Why did John *declare* or *proclaim* what he had *seen* and *heard*?
 - a. Define *fellowship* from Pastor Chuck's study notes on I John 1:1-3.
 - (1) To have this *fellowship* with one another, Who must each of us first have *fellowship* with?
 - (a.) From John 3:16 tell how we come into this *fellowship*.
 - b. How does this *fellowship* differ from friendship with one another?

2. State *The Purpose of Christianity* from Pastor Chuck's study notes. (See also *Purpose of Gospel*)
 - a. What does Pastor Chuck say is *more incredible* about this *fellowship* than our deep communion with one another?

3. From the study notes what else do you discover about this *fellowship* that particularly blesses you?

*Blest be the tie that binds:
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
John Faucett*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 1:1-4

1. Write I John 1:4. Use other versions if you desire.
 - a. We were created to know this *fulfillment of joy*, but we are empty until we come into that *fellowship* with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. No wonder people in the world are on a continual fruitless quest for pleasure and, like Eve in the garden, they follow the serpent's signposts and ignore God's loving call on their hearts. Again, note the condition from I John 1:3b that must be met before we can experience this fulfillment and complete joy.

2. Record what these verses say about *joy*:
 - a. Gospel of John 15:11

 - b. Gospel of John 17:13

 - c. I Peter 1:(7), 8

 - d. Ecclesiastes 2:26

3. This *joy* is not dependent on people or circumstances. It comes from being rightly related to God through Christ. Our salvation brings us into this *fellowship* and this *fellowship* brings *fulfillment of joy*. Reflect on the joy of your salvation as you write these verses.
 - a. Habakkuk 3:18

 - b. Isaiah 12:3

 - c. Psalm 70:4

4. Write a verse, note, or poem that expresses what this *joy* means to you today.

*Holy Holy is what the angels sing:
and I expect to help them make:
the courts of heaven ring.
But when I sing redemption's story
They will fold their wings.
The angels never felt the joy:
That our salvation brings.*

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. If you could go back with John and experience one event with Jesus, what would it be? Why?
2. After *looking upon* Jesus from John's eyewitness account, share how this affects your perspective today and works in you to transform your thoughts and desires.
3. Briefly summarize what you have learned about the *Word of Life*.
4. What new insight did you glean from Pastor Chuck's notes on *fellowship*?
5. Think for a few moments about how the fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ bring *fulfillment of joy*. What are some of the facets of this joy that especially thrill your heart?

*Friendship with Jesus, fellowship divine.
O what blessed sweet communion,
Jesus is a friend of mine!*