

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 1:5-7

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 1:1-4. The writer of this letter knew Jesus; therefore, he was qualified to proclaim Him. What do you learn about Jesus in this paragraph that increases your knowledge of Him?
 - a. Recognizing that the word *fellowship* means *to have in common*., Who must the believers have *in common* that enables them to have fellowship with God and others?

Answer by filling in the blanks from I John 1:3c. Son _____ .

- 1) Write what I Corinthians 1:9 reveals about fellowship.
2. In this week's lesson, I John 1:5-7 and next week's, we will confront barriers to fellowship with God and face tests that prove whether we truly have *fellowship* with God and other believers. Note and mark the paragraph divisions as follows. Circle the word *if* in these paragraphs and write the phrases that begin with *if*.
 - a. I John 1:5-7
 - b. I John 1:8-10
3. Begin your study of I John 1:5-7 with a prayer written here asking the Lord to prepare your mind and heart to receive the truth revealed in these verses. Express your willingness to put into practice His will in response to His love for you. Thank Him for the *blood of Jesus Christ His Son* which *cleanseth us from all sin*.

*It's Your blood that cleanses me,
It's Your blood that gives me life,
It's Your blood that took my place
In redeeming sacrifice
And washes me whiter than the snow,
My Jesus, God's precious sacrifice.*

M.C.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 1:5

1. Print the message from I John 1:5 that John heard from Jesus and declares unto the readers.
 - a. Ponder this I John 1:5b truth about God. *God is Light* refers to many aspects of God's character but especially here to His moral character - purity and holiness. *Darkness* refers to evil and sin. With this in mind... write I John 1:5b in your own words amplifying the word *Light*.

2. Remember this is the message (I John 1:5) John received from Jesus. Remember, also, Jesus came to reveal God the Father. Record what Jesus communicated about the *Light* from the following verses:
 - a. Gospel of John 1:4
 - b. Gospel of John 8:12
 - c. Gospel of John 12:46
 - d. Look at Zechariah's prophecy concerning Jesus in Luke 1:(76,77),78,79. Read in other versions if you desire. What do you learn about Jesus, the *dayspring*, and the *light*, from these verses?
 - (1) Rejoice in the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:2 by writing a sentence or verse of thanksgiving.

3. This truth about God, I John 1:5b, is vitally important to our relationship to God. *A man's own character will necessarily be determined by the character of the god he worships.* Selah (stop and think about this). If you view God as tolerating and condoning sin, you cannot be in fellowship with God. Your concept of God determines your relationship. And John makes very clear to us in this verse what Jesus revealed about God. (*God is Light*, that means, His very nature is *light*. There is no darkness or wickedness or evil in Him at all. From the following verses share what they reveal about God in relationship to *light*.)
 - a. Genesis 1 :3
 - b. James 1:17
 - c. Colossians 1:12,13
 - d. II Corinthians 4:6

4. Carefully consider the last phrase in I John 1:5. Write it here.
 - a. What does this mean?

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 1:6

1. How do I know for sure whether or not I am in right relationship (have *fellowship*) with God? John asserts that our lifestyle will demonstrate whether we are in fellowship with God or not. Outline I John 1:6 by filling out the following chart to see how one's conduct must be consistent with one's claim.

We say	We do
If we say that _____	
_____	and _____
we _____.	and _____

- a. Define the phrase *walk in darkness*. (See Romans 13:12; Ephesians 5:3-8.

Challenge: Augment your answer in question 1a by using The Living Bible.

- b. *Walking in darkness* indicates living as those who do not know God. You cannot walk in darkness and light at the same time. (See Luke 11:34.) I John 1:6 exposes the false claim of the person who professes to be a Christian and habitually practices sin. His or her conduct disproves his/her claim. Carefully consider what I John 1:6b says about the contradiction between what these people *say* and what they *do*. Comment on this.
- c. *For though once your heart was full of darkness, now it is full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it!* Ephesians 5:8 TLB. How does this scripture speak to you about the transformation that takes place when we are brought into fellowship with God?

2. Contrast Ephesians 2:2 with I Peter 2:9 In light of I John 1:6. What do you see?

Challenge: I John 1:6 also contradicts the claim of the heretics in John's time who were saying all matter was evil so the body was insignificant and it did not matter what the person did, only the "spirit" was important and it could not be contaminated by sin. If people brought that heresy into the body of believers today, how would you refute it?

3. Especially in the 90's we're hearing about and encountering people who claim to be Christians and ignore or justify a lifestyle that the Bible clearly defines as sinful. How do you handle this?

4. *Take no part in the worthless pleasures of evil and darkness... Ephesians 5:11a TLB* If we say that we have *fellowship with Him*, what should we not be having *fellowship* with?
 - a. Explain what *unfruitful works of darkness* means, See Ephesians 5:11 KJV.
 - b. Using I John 1:6b as a guide, answer the question found in II Corinthians 6:14c.

- 1) What insight does this give you on *fellowship with God*?

*A man who walks in fellowship with God
Never thinks that sin does not matter.
chosen*

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 1:6, 7

1. Write I John 1:7 phrase by phrase.

- a. In contrast to I John 1:6 underline or highlight the above phrase that distinguishes what is essential to our fellowship with God.

- 1) There is no gray area in these verses. You are either in fellowship or not in fellowship. In light of I John 1:6, 7 what is the test of being in *fellowship with God*?

Challenge: *Light* symbolizes both (ethical) truth and (moral) purity. How did distortion of God's truth lead Eve to deception, sin, and loss of fellowship with God?
See Genesis 3:1-7, (23, 24).

- a. What parallel do you find in this with I John 1:6,7?
2. Explain in practical terms what the phrase *walk in the Light* says to you concerning fellowship with God and other believers.
3. Look closely at the phrase, *as He is in the Light*. Recognizing this is where God dwells, (see I Timothy 6:16) why is our fellowship with God contingent on our *walking in the Light*? (Review II Corinthians.6:14c) Answer in your own words.
 - a. Print the promise from. John 8:12 that defines simply, *walking in the light*.

4. List the two results of *walking in the Light* from I John 1:7.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - a. The invisible bond of Light unites believers together in *fellowship*.
Observe from Acts 2:(42,43) 44-47 how this *fellowship* affected the life of the early church. What do you see?

5. Concentrate on the words *all sin* in I John 1:7. The cleansing of **all sin** (note: sin singular) through Christ's blood refers to sin past, present, and future • the root of sin in our fallen nature. (In next week's lesson we will deal with *sins* (plural) in the life of the believer.) What does this *all* mean to you today? Write your answer as a note of thanksgiving and praise.

Challenge: What significance is there in identifying Jesus Christ as *His Son* in I John 1:7c?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 1:5-7

Now that you've studied I John 1:5-7, do a personal study by using these questions for each verse: (This is a Bible study tool for studying any verse or passage.)

- I. What does this verse say?
(Be literal - don't add thoughts; use as few words as possible.)

- II. What does this verse mean?
(Explain the meaning of this verse in your own words.)

- III. What does this verse mean (or say) to me?
(This is for application to your life. Ask yourself questions such as: Is there an instruction for me to follow? Am I living out the truth revealed in this verse?)
 1. I John 1:5

 2. I John 1:6

 3. I John 1:7

 4. Now record any fresh insights, discoveries, or gleanings from these verses.

SIXTH DAY:

Review

1. Give a short title to I John 1:5-7.
2. Explain as you would to a non-Christian the meaning of the phrase (*God is Light*).
 - a. Why do you think some people who claim to be Christians refuse to *walk in the Light*? See John 3:(18),19, Answer in your own words.
 - b. If a person has no desire to *walk in the Light* do you think, he is born again? Why or why not?
3. What is the crucial test for fellowship with God according to I John 1:6,7?

Personal: Have you experienced both the blessings of I John 1:7? If not, why not ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your life today.

4. Share a specific verse or passage from your study this week that ministered to you and tell why.
5. How are you applying this lesson to your life?
 - a. In what way is Colossians 1:12-14 an incentive for you to *walk in the Light* always?
6. *Blessed are those who have learned and acclaim (praise) You, who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD. Psalm 89:15 NKJV.* Complete this lesson by meditating on **this verse**. Then write your response to it.

*We give You praises with thanksgiving
As we lift our hands to praise You
And glorify Your name
For You God
All the wonders that You do
Show Your glory and Your truth
There is no one else like You*