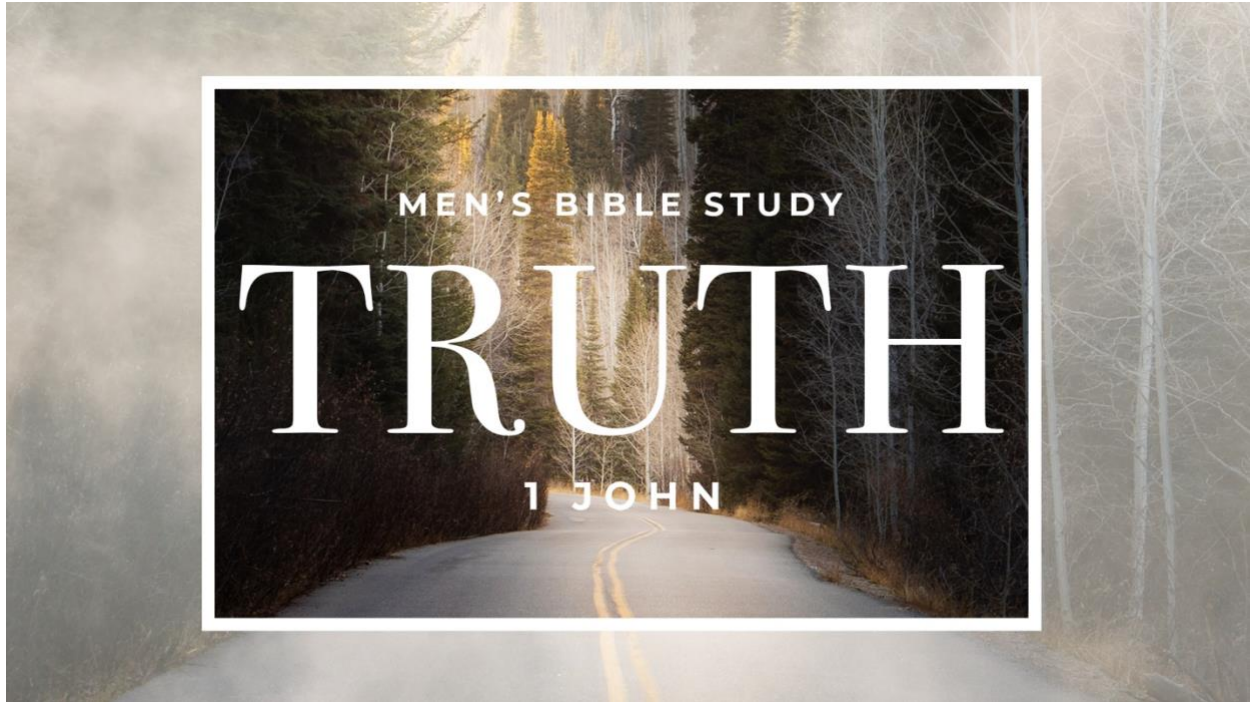


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SESSION ONE:

“LIFE”

1 John 1:1-4

SESSION ONE TEACHING NOTES

Two Prayers...

1. I Want You To _____ That You Have _____

1 John 5:13

John 20:31

A. You Can Be _____ About Eternal Life

B. You Can Be _____ About Eternal Life

2. I Want You To _____ God's _____

1 John 4:8

A. You Have Been Created To _____ God's Love For You

B. You Have Been Created To _____ God's Love To Others

Two Truths...

1 John 1:1-4

1. _____ Is Eternal Life

John 1:4

John 14:6

John 17:3

A. See Who _____

B. See What _____

2. Jesus Offers _____

A. Jesus Made The Way For Everlasting Fellowship With _____

1 John 3:16

B. Jesus Made The Way For Everlasting Fellowship With _____

C. Jesus Made The Way For Everlasting _____

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Review your notes from this week's teaching. Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

QUICK OVERVIEW

The first four verses of 1 John set up the rest of the letter. John wants his hearers to know that they have eternal life, which means that they must have a right understanding of Jesus Christ. As an apostle, John had firsthand knowledge of Jesus, and he wanted others to enjoy the same joy-filled fellowship that he had with the Father and the Son.

DIGGING DEEPER

Some people reject the Bible's teaching about Jesus because they view it as a collection of unreliable stories that were passed on by those who never spoke with Him or saw Him.

- **How does 1 John 1:1-4 speak to this objection?**
- **Why is it so crucial that we have confidence in the authority of everything we read in Scripture?**

John says that he is proclaiming "eternal life" (v.2), a phrase that is used throughout his letter. However, for John, eternal life is not merely a thing or a concept. It is a Person. This eternal life was "with the Father and was made manifest to us" (v.2). John is referring to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- **How, then, should we think about attempts to find eternal life – whether through good works, other religions, etc. – apart from Jesus Christ?**

The reason eternal life comes only through Jesus is because of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished. He is "from the beginning" (v.1), which refers to the fact that Jesus existed prior to creation. John also tells us that Jesus was "with the Father" (v.2) prior to His earthly ministry. These things can only be said of the fully divine Son of God. This is the same Jesus the apostles heard, saw, and touched (v.1).

This Jesus who was fully divine and fully human lived a life of perfect obedience, the life we have all failed to live. Jesus then died on the cross to take the

punishment that sinners like us deserve. Later in this letter, John says that Jesus “laid down his life for us” (3:16). But, three days later, Jesus rose from the dead to show His power over sin and death. Now all who turn from their sin and put their trust in Jesus are forgiven of their sins and reconciled to God.

- **In light of who Jesus is and what He has done for our salvation, what would you say to someone who claimed to have eternal life but who did not seem to care much about the Jesus revealed in Scripture?**

If you truly love someone, then you will make that love known to them. God has revealed His love to us by sending us His Son. Knowing and experiencing this supernatural love is, according to verse 3, why John proclaims Christ: “...so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

By “fellowship,” John is referring to a partnership or a close bond.

- **How is this idea of fellowship different than the way many Christians use the word?**
- **Based on verse 4, what is John’s purpose in writing, and how does fellowship with God achieve that purpose?**

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- **What are some unbiblical views of Jesus that are common in our culture? How have these views spilled over into the church?**
- **What is at stake when it comes to our view of Jesus? How can we make sure that we have the right view of Jesus?**
- **How does this opening section of 1 John speak to the deity of Christ? (Hint: see 1 John 1:2)**
- **Given what John says about Jesus, what is wrong with the idea that all religions essentially teach the same thing?**
- **We are often tempted to find ultimate joy in people and possessions. How does John’s stated purpose in 1 John 1:4 point us in another direction to find ultimate and lasting joy?**

SESSION ONE GROUP PRAYER

