

1 John 1: 1-4

¹That 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 life² 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— ³that 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. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John opens as a witness to who Jesus is. Historically, the word witness stems from the legal world where witnesses are responsible for the integrity and truthfulness of their testimony. In addition to their personal story, witnesses not only vouch for their personal experience of something, but for the truthfulness of what is stated.

This first passage in 1 John states that a testimony is experienced in many ways. It is heard, seen, touched. It is told for the sake of fellowship within the church body and most importantly with God the Father. Lastly, it is testified so that our joy may be made complete.

Opening Questions:

1. When life is hard, do you still share your story in such a way that points to God's goodness?
2. What does it look like to have joy despite the difficulties of life?
3. What were the 3 applications from last week's challenge to take on 1 injustice, 1 neighborhood, 1 friend?

Read All of 1 John.

Write down the 5 themes of 1 John found in these verses:

- a. 1 John 1:3
- b. 1 John 1:4
- c. 1 John 2:1

d. 1 John 2:26

e. 1 John 5:13

Read 1 John 1:1-4 again

Observations from the text

4. Describe how the Word of Life is revealed in verse 1.

5. Describe how life is experienced in verse 2.

6. Describe how life is shared with others in verse 3 & 4.

Applying the text:

7. Write a brief timeline of your spiritual journey. Indicate the "mile markers" of significant growth.

8. Verse 1 describes the Word of Life. Read John 1:1 and talk about your discipline to spend time in the word. What practices do you have in place for spending time in the word? Is it adequate time?

9. Verse 3 & 4 talk about fellowship, fellowship in community and with the Father. Discuss as a small group how you can increase your fellowship that is focused on the Father in:

- a. Your small group
- b. Building into one another outside of small group

Then review your Small Group Covenant to make sure these are appropriately included in your covenant.

For next weeks study, memorize 1 John 1: 7 *"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"*