

Community Group Study Guide

Title: Word of Life: An Inductive Study of 1 John 1:5-10

Introduction:

In his first epistle, the Apostle John emphasizes the importance of living in the light of God's truth. This study explores 1 John 1:5-10, focusing on the themes of light, fellowship, and confession. Through observation, interpretation, and application, we will learn how these verses guide us in our daily walk with God.

Open in prayer with a time of sharing praises and requests

1. God is Light (1 John 1:5)

Observe:

'This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.'

Interpretation:

John begins by declaring that God is light, symbolizing His purity, truth, and holiness. There is no darkness—no sin or evil—in Him. This sets the standard for how believers should live.

Application:

Reflect on areas of your life that may still be in darkness. How can you bring those areas into the light of God's truth?

Group Study Questions:

- What does it mean that God is light?

Explore what light symbolizes in Scripture (e.g., purity, truth, guidance).

Consider how God's nature is revealed through this metaphor.

What does this tell us about who God is?

- How can understanding God as light impact our daily lives?

Think about how knowing God's character influences their choices.

If God is completely pure and truthful, how should that shape our behavior, thoughts, or decisions?

2. Fellowship in the Light (1 John 1:6-7)

Observe:

'If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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, purifies us from all sin.'

Interpretation:

True fellowship with God requires walking in His light—living in truth and righteousness. When we walk in darkness or live in sin, we break that fellowship. Walking in the light also builds genuine community among believers and brings spiritual cleansing through Jesus.

Application:

Evaluate your relationships within the church. Are they marked by honesty, integrity, and encouragement? How can you help others walk in the light?

Group Study Questions:

- What does it mean to walk in the light?

Describe what a life in the light looks like. What kind of actions, attitudes, or habits reflect God's truth? Draw from both the passage and personal experience.

- How does walking in the light affect our relationships with others?

How does living in truth strengthen our relationships? What are some ways we can encourage each other to stay in the light?

3. The Role of Confession (1 John 1:8-10)

Observe:

'If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.'

Interpretation:

John stresses the importance of acknowledging our sinfulness. Denying our sin is self-deception and contradicts God's truth. Confession is essential—it leads to forgiveness and purification, showing God's faithfulness and justice.

Application:

Make confession a regular part of your prayer life.

How does being honest with God about your sins affect your spiritual growth and relationships?

Group Study Questions:

- Why is confession important in our spiritual journey?

How does confession affect your relationship with God? What does this passage teach us about God's response to our honesty?

- How can we cultivate a habit of confession in our lives?

What helps you stay honest before God? How can we support each other in living transparent, grace-filled lives?

Closing Thought:

Walking in the light means living in God's truth, embracing fellowship, and practicing honest confession. As we do so, we experience deeper communion with God and with one another, growing in holiness and faith.