



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: 1 John 1:1-4

Sermon Summary:

John's first letter begins with a call to see Jesus for who he really is & to be in fellowship (partnership) with Jesus in order to experience full & complete joy. Who is this Jesus? According to John, he is the one who was with the Father in eternity & the one whom they heard, saw, examined & touched. In other words, Jesus is fully God (divine) & fully man (human). But that's not all John says in this opening section. He invites his readers to come into an intimate fellowship with God, the kind that he & the other early eye-witnesses enjoyed. His promise was that once they responded to that invitation they would experience a fullness of joy that cannot be known without God. The invitation still remains for you & I today, will we continue to be in sweet fellowship with God & have joy to the full?

Discussion:

1. Discuss both Pauline & Johannine church structures. Have you been in churches with different structures? What has your experience been like?
2. The 'we/us' & 'you' structure is clear in the first 3 verses. Who was John referring to with each pronoun? When you read 1 Jn. 4:14 & 16, what has changed? Paul Trebilco says, *'The 'we' here is the whole community rather than any special group of eyewitnesses; Further, throughout the letter it is this sense of the joint 'we'/'us' of author and readers that predominates;'* What does this show about the heart that John has for the believers?

3. I know the way John begins his letter is a bit awkward, but do you see Jesus' divinity & humanity? What do you think John's point is in verses 1 & 2?
4. In both 3 & 4, John uses the phrase, '*so that.*' This speaks of purpose. What are the two purposes laid out in these verses?
5. In verse 3, is John pointing to himself as a hierarchical gatekeeper to fellowship with God, or is he inviting the believers into fellowship with God?
6. The net result of fellowship with God is complete or full joy. Talk about your experience of that joy compared to earthly joy.

End with Prayer.

- Pray for each one to see who Jesus really is & to experience the joy of God.
- Pray for one another's concerns.