



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: 1 John 1:5-10*

**Check with each other how you are doing.**

### **1 John 1:5-10**

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. 6 If we say, "We have fellowship with him," and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. 7 If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### **Sermon Summary:**

John writes this letter to believers to correct their misunderstanding of what the gospel is. They might have solely understood that the only sin was unbelief. Once they believed some might have felt they no longer had sin. It would appear this was the thought and teaching of those who left. John's three "If we say..." statements address the matters of living according to the truth, the need to confess sin, and the efficacy of Jesus death, for forgiveness and cleansing from sin. A healthy Christian is one who confesses their sins when they become aware of them as they walk in the light. Walking in the light does not mean we do not sin but that we are aware of our sin and confess it. This maintains our fellowship with each other and with God. Based on the death of Christ we are also forgiven and purified from the defilement of sin.

### **Discussion:**

1. Discuss what it means to you that "God is light and in him is no darkness at all"?
2. In verse 6, what is the lie and why are they lying?

3. What does it mean to “practice the truth”?
4. Why does John say in v. 7 “we have fellowship with one another” instead of saying “We have fellowship with God”?
5. Why is it deceptive to say “We have no sin”?
6. Why is talking about sin in our society such a problem?
7. Verses 7 & 9 should be read together.
  - What are the requirements for forgiveness and cleansing?
  - What is the basis for forgiveness and cleansing?
  - What are the results of confessing?
8. Why is this section of verses so important for believers?

**End with Prayer**