

Small Group Curriculum • 1 John • Hello, Life.

LIFE IS HERE • WEEK 1 • 1John 1:1-4

This week we launched our teaching series into 1 John, written by the apostle, John who was seeking to reassure Christians in their faith and counter false teachings denying the incarnation and/or “humanness” of Jesus.

This eyewitness of Christ and now older in his life, John, presents with authority God as light, love and life and explains what it means to have fellowship with Him. Our hope is that we will see and experience God in new and vibrant ways throughout this study. Hello, Life!

REMINDERS

Awakening News:

- If you have been a part of Awakening for an extended season, giving your *time, talent, and treasure*, then be sure to go through Awakening’s [201 membership process](#) that capped off our 201 teaching series this past August.
- Is there anyone in your life who is spiritually seeking and ready for an invite to Alpha? More information [here](#).
- Are you looking for a place to serve? Please consider joining our Space Team helping once a month with Saturday or Sunday morning setup or Sunday afternoon tear down. To find out more, email Space Director, Layth Haddad at layth@awakeningchurch.com.

ICEBREAKER

With this week potentially being your first session with your group, be sure to take the appropriate time to get to know each other. You may find that you will need to spend more time this first session building relational rapport before you can go scripturally and prayerfully deep. That’s okay and to be expected.

INTRODUCTIONS: Go around the room and ask each person to share their name, how long they have been attending Awakening, and one of their top highlights in life.

QUESTION: As our teaching series is titled, “Hello, Life,” looking back, how would you say “hello” to your life as a middle schooler? So, fill in the blank, “Hello, _____ Life.” (i.e. Hello, *strange* life. Hello, *simple* life. Hello, *pimple popping* life. Etc.)

INTRODUCTION

In 1 John, John was countering a false teaching called, “Gnosticism,” which viewed that matter and the material world as evil. This view not only sought to eliminate the truth that Jesus was fully human (aside from being fully God) but it also removed and disparaged the idea of a natural order within the world.

AWAKENING

QUESTION: Why would Gnosticism and the devaluing of Jesus' humanness be so harmful to the Christian message?

This new or "secret" knowledge of Gnosticism allowed people to rebel against God's natural order and proposed the idea that freedom and meaning is found by looking within oneself.

QUESTION: Where do we still see Gnosticism at work in society and in our hearts today?

This movement of Gnosticism began to surface doubts among the early Christians in Jesus' physical death and bodily resurrection.

QUESTION: What are the doubts you struggle with about your faith? What causes these doubts?

Transition: As doubt is a normal part of the Christian life, going back to God's truth can provide stability, hope, and trust. Let's do that now.

DISCUSSION

If time allows, briefly explain the time between Jesus' ascension and the writing of 1 John.

READ: 1 John 1:1-4

QUESTIONS

1. What appears to qualify John to write this letter with such confidence?
2. In verse 3, what is John's reason for writing this letter to readers? (*Ryan explained how 1 John 1:1-4 declared our purpose for wonder, *fellowship* and joy. Verse 3 reminds us of our Designer designing us for *fellowship* and relational unity).
3. When you hear the word "fellowship" what do you typically think of? How does John describe *fellowship* in the last sentence of verse 3?
4. With all of the differences we may have financially, intellectually, socially, politically, etc...how does true fellowship bring us unity and a call to God's higher kingdom? How do you see Paul's words in Ephesians 4:1-6 reiterate this higher unity within diversity?
5. How would John's challenge towards fellowship combat Gnosticism or any other false teaching?
6. Where have you experience genuine unity in the midst of diversity? Why was this the case? (*Why does scripture support unity over uniformity? See Eph 4:9-13)

RESPONSE

1. If our small group is going to be marked by a 1 John 1:3 "fellowship," what would it look like?
2. What must we commit to in order to make this dream a reality? (*Consider framing a small group agreement that everyone can commit to.)



A W A K E N I N G

Transition: We desire our small groups at Awakening to regularly experience relational connection, biblical study, and also prayer, taking our praise, requests, and confessions to God.

PRAYER

As a people joined in fellowship with the Father, and with the Son, Jesus Christ, ask God to begin to forge in the group a genuine unity and love for one another around the foundations of our faith. (*If time allows, open up the prayer time to take personal requests and pray for them as a group).