

## Small Group Curriculum • 1 John • Hello, Life.

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### **OUT OF THE SHADOWS • WEEK 2 • 1John 1:5-2:2**

As we emphasized John's calling towards biblical fellowship last week, this week we will heed John's warning against a fellowship destroyer: deception, sin and darkness. Thankfully, we have a God that is light who stands in as our advocate and atoning sacrifice. To say "hello" and live out true "life," it is found by walking in the light.

### **REMINDERS**

#### Awakening News:

- Are you looking for a place to serve? Please consider joining our Meals Ministry that provides care and love through a warm meal to our church family in need. To find out more, email Executive Pastor, Dave Smith at [dave@awakeningchurch.com](mailto:dave@awakeningchurch.com).
- Is there anyone in your life who is spiritually seeking and ready for an invite to Alpha starting Sept 26? More information [here](#).

### **ICEBREAKER**

Play the game, "Two Lies and a Truth," where each group member has to present two lies about themselves and one truth, without revealing which statement is true. The group then tries to guess which statement is true.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the previous section, John challenged his readers to experience true fellowship with each other and God. However, John now stresses that there is a condition attached to such fellowship. We must not only build our fellowship from our connection to God, but we must also build our fellowship with honest, authentic, truth-seeking hearts.

**Transition:** Let's take a deeper look into Paul's description of this authentic heart essential for biblical fellowship so that we may "approach the throne of grace with confidence" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

### **DISCUSSION**

READ: 1 John 1:5-2:2

### QUESTIONS

1. What are the contrasts that John describes between darkness and light? What deceptions does John warn against?
2. What are some ways we deceive ourselves about sin? How do we see these deceptions reflected in The Fall of Humanity from Genesis 3:1-13?

# AWAKENING

3. In Genesis 3:11, why do you think God asked a question he already knew the answer to? (\*He wasn't seeking information, but confession. Confession is the first and necessary step to take us back to the Garden in Genesis 2:25 where we are "naked and feel no shame," bringing freedom.)
4. Why can confession be intimidating? How has the history of the Roman Catholic Church *institutionalizing* confession and the Protestant Church *devaluing* confession shaped our views on this spiritual practice?
5. How is confession illustrated and contrasted in Luke 18:9-14? Based on this passage, how would you define God-honoring confession? (\*Confession is presenting our real self to God, not the person we hope to be, but the person we actually are.)

## RESPONSE

1. According to James 3:16 why is the spiritual discipline of confession essential for our fellowship with God and with the church family? Will God not cleanse us if we don't practice confession to another person? (\*No. He has cleansed us from his work on the cross and our trust in him as Leader and Rescuer, however, it is how we get to *experience* the reality of God's cleansing power. We don't lose our salvation with the loss of confession, but we can lose our *joy* of salvation without it.)
2. As 1 John 1:8-9 reminds us of what unconfessed sin does to our fellowship, what does King David say in Psalm 32:1, 3-5 say the consequences will be to us personally? Describe how high the stakes are to have the practice of confession in one's life.
3. Who is one person in your life that is *trusted, grace-filled, and spiritually mature* that you are able to practice the spiritual discipline of confession with on a regular basis? What would a next step to explore an ongoing time of confession with this person look like?

**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

In a moment of quiet reflection and prayer, read over the group Proverbs 28:13. Take a moment and have the group simply reflect on their week, personally confessing their sins to God in the quietness of their hearts. While in the spirit of prayer, have the group quietly go to God, asking to bring a godly, trusted person to mind that they can go to on a consistent basis just to confess. Ask God to give the group the words and courage to establish this new spiritual discipline with their trusted person. End by giving thanks and praise to God, for sending Jesus as God's provision for our sin and shame.