

DISCUSSION

1. What is your greatest assurance that what you believe about Jesus and the gospel message is true? Are there areas of faith where you struggle with assurance? What are the main sources of this doubt?
2. The apostle John had the privilege of seeing Christ and hearing Jesus’ teaching first hand. Why is John’s eyewitness testimony important to our assurance in the gospel message?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? Why is He called the Word of Life?
4. Why do you think John began this letter in such a way?
5. When you think of the word “fellowship,” what comes to mind? What are some key characteristics of Christian fellowship? What does it look like to have fellowship with the God?
6. What gets in the way of our fellowship and communion with God? What facilitates communion with God? What is the relationship between fellowship with God and joy?
7. How does joy-filled fellowship with God and His people provide assurance that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true?
8. In light of this passage, how can we encourage one another to seek fellowship with God and joy in God?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

1. Who first told you about Jesus? How do we know Jesus is real?
2. How do we communicate with God?
3. How does Jesus give joy?
4. What does it mean to belong to God?

NEXT STEPS

- John writes this letter, so that the believers might have joy and experience fellowship with God. Consider asking someone to encourage you to spend time meditating on, praying over, and then applying 1 John over the next few weeks. You might ask a spouse, friend, Small Group member, discipler, or accountability partner. If this person is willing, you can provide them with encouragement in this area as well.
- Pray that your reading of 1 John will help you know Christ more, and that you will experience greater joy and fellowship with Him. Ask God to draw you near, give you greater assurance, and protect you from worldliness.