



# Sermon Growth Guide

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## Walk in the Light, 1 John 1:1-10

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**Key Verse:** (1 John 1:5) "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

**Big Idea:** Christmas is about the entry of God's light into our darkened souls

### Foundations

This week we continue in our theme of Everlasting Light. We've looked at darkness, at Isaiah's prophecy, and at the relationship of light and dark. Today we focus on the idea of Jesus being the light.

John was one of Jesus' close friends, and as such, he wanted others to know the truth about Jesus. He was fighting for the truth, just as any one of us would do for our close friend. John had been with Jesus – had eaten with Him, walked with Him, laughed with Him. John could give witness to the humanity of Jesus. John had also seen the transformation occur for those who encountered Jesus. He could give witness to the incredible, precious, holy time that they'd had together.

Since John had witnessed the light, he's even more passionate to not return to darkness. He'd seen the juxtaposition. John has seen what darkness is – even the tricky darkness. John refuses to let anyone else think that they are good and sinless, for that erases the miracle of who God is. John wants us to be honest with ourselves – admitting and confessing our sin and need of a Savior, as Pastor Tim mentioned.

The rest of this letter implores the reader to remember the light – to stay the course. We're called to stay the course of righteousness and of operating as a child of God. We're asked to go out into the world with Love, and to remember the one who is Love.

### Understanding God's Word

Together, read 1 John 1:1-10 1

John was written by John, one of Jesus' inner circle, and the 'disciple whom Jesus loved.' How does that enhance your understanding of vs. 2? John sets the tone for this letter by reminding the believers that God is light. Skimming the book, what darkness does John warn against?

### Applying God's Word

Think back to something historic that you were part of. As you tell an outsider about it, don't you want to try to convey everything you witnessed? What is John trying to impress upon us? What would it look like to be a part of a group, like the disciples were, where Light was common? Have you witnessed something like this?

Are you in darkness right now? How does "the entry of God's light into our darkened soul(s)," as Pastor Tim said, sound to you? How can you turn toward Jesus, who is light?

### Witnessing God's Word

Pastor Tim talked of the lie that the early church most needed to combat - that Jesus was not fully human. There was an assumption that He was God, due to His multitude of miracles. Our culture, on the other hand, wants to see Jesus as only a good man – a good teacher. How does Jesus being the Light of the World – fully God and fully man – shape our worldview and our conversations?