

John's Letters: Lesson 2

Prologue: "The Word of Life"

Lesson Text: 1 John 1:1-4

Weekly Text: 1, 2 and 3 John

Assignment: Read the lesson text (at least) 3-5 times and answer the questions to prepare for class discussion.

In Context:

1:1-4 Prologue: "The Word of Life"

1:5-2:2 Fellowship with God Based on Fellowship with His Nature (Light)

2:3-11 Relationship with God in Christ Tested by Behavior

Study Guide Questions

1. Who would be included in "we" and "us" in 1:1-4?
2. The "word of life" is the subject of the prologue as well as a critical emphasis throughout 1 John. Scan the letter and list passages that address "life".
3. Define "Fellowship":
4. Why did the witnesses "proclaim" "the word of life"? (1:3)
5. How does one come into fellowship with "the Father and His Son Jesus Christ"? (1:3)
6. Why did John "write" "these things"? (1:4; cf. 2 Jn. 4, 12; 3 Jn. 4). Also, compare this "purpose statement" with the final "purpose statement" in the letter (5:13). What is the connection?
7. Thought Question: John uses the phrase, "the beginning" in two different ways in his letter: 1) the beginning of time (2:13f; 3:8; cf. Jn. 1:1-4); 2) the beginning of the revelation through Jesus (2:7, 24; 3:11; 2 Jn. 5-6; cf. Lk. 1:1-2). Consider, in what way does John mean "the beginning" in the context of 1:1-4?