



Leader Guide

The Joy of Fellowship

May 29, 2022

Main Passage: 1 John 1:1-4

Theological Theme

Those who are children of God declare and testify about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, all who are in Christ have a unique and special bond of fellowship. Christians are family in the truest, most eternal sense of the word.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever attended a courtroom proceeding where a verdict was handed down by a judge?
- ❓ As is appropriate, share the circumstances surrounding the case. What was the verdict?

Imagine a judge showing mercy to a criminal and pardoning him in the courtroom. The judge slams down the gavel, stands to his feet, and exits the bench in his black robes. This would be quite remarkable, but not unbelievable. Next, the pardoned criminal gathers his things in tears of relief, makes his way back to the exit, and pushes open the doors. As he opens the door he sees standing there before him the judge. But the robes are gone and the fierce gaze has turned to a joyful smile. The judge says, “Let’s go home son. I didn’t just pardon you. I adopted you. All I have is yours.” This is what God does for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1. Revelation of Christ (1 John 1:1)

God has revealed Himself to His creation. This may be the most fundamental of truths when it comes to a right understanding of who God is and who we are because it expresses the critical doctrine of

revelation. God has made Himself known to His creation as opposed to the idea that creation has figured out who God is. This is important because many people today claim to know the truth about God and the world through sources other than those God has used to make Himself known—the Bible and His works.

2. Declaration about Christ (1 John 1:2)

John wasn't content to simply receive revelation about Jesus Christ. He knew he must declare to the nations what he had received concerning Him. Jesus told him, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus also told Him: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

3. Fellowship in Christ (1 John 1:3-4)

John proclaimed the truth about Christ "so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son." Notice what John did not say. He didn't mention forgiveness of sin or eternal life. Rather, he said he was telling them these things so that they might have fellowship.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?