

LG | Leader

[1 John 1:5-10]

WARM-UP (5 mins)

Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- How was your week? Were you able to take time to reflect on God's goodness this week?
How so?
- When you reflect on the message Sunday, what most resonated with you?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read our primary text. In the opening verse, John says, "we have heard from him and proclaim to you." What can we learn from this statement?

We also are called to hear and proclaim. With our tremendous access to God's word and sound teaching, great responsibility is upon our lives for sharing what we have heard.

2. John then goes on to say, God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. What attributes of God best captures what John is speaking of here?

Perfection: Correct Doctrine (Truth) and Moral Purity (Holiness)

God is perfect. He fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no qualities that are desirable to him. God is truth. All his knowledge and all his words are both true and the final standard of truth. God is Holy. He is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

3. What do you think it means for us as believers to walk in the light?

Walking in the light is to reflect God's perfection. Because we are image bearers of God, we are to walk in truth and purity so that the world knows what God is like through us.

Walking in the light also means that we do not walk in hidden sin. Falsehoods and deception are not a mark of a Christian and inhibit our fellowship with God.

Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary (Crossway)
- Christian Beliefs (Wayne Grudem)

4. How is a true believer (you or I) supposed to respond to sin?

A true believer develops a hatred for sin. They daily seek to resist sin in all its forms because they understand the pervasive catastrophic consequences in their lives and in the lives of others. Persistent unrepentant sin is not the mark of a Christian and God “will by no means clear the guilty” (Numbers 14:18).

5. If God forgave all of our sins past, present and future through Jesus’ work on the cross, why do we still need to repent of our sins and ask for forgiveness?

Christians must repent and confess their sins initially to receive salvation, but they maintain a posture of repentance throughout their days, acknowledging the grace of God and work of Christ in their lives (elevating what Christ accomplished). They also maintain right relationship with one another through confession and building up one another in love. Ultimately, Christians are careful not to abuse the grace of God as they participate in the Holy Spirit’s work of sanctification.

6. Many of us struggle with the sins of our past. How does verse 9 allow us to let go of the past and look forward towards the good works God has prepared for us (Eph. 2:10)?

John tells us that “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” We must rest in the fact that if we have confessed our sins before the Lord, we are forgiven by God according to His word.

PRAY (10 mins)

Use this time to pray specifically over what has been discussed.

Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary (Crossway)
- Christian Beliefs (Wayne Grudem)