

Community Group Leader Guide

6.7.26 | 1 John | Week 2

Missed the sermon? Watch here: [YouTube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch)

Announcements

YTH CAMP and BCE: We have two big summer opportunities coming up for the next generation. YTH Camp is June 8–12 for 6th–12th grade students, and Best Camp Ever is June 14–18 for completed 3rd–5th graders. These weeks are filled with worship, Bible study, friendships, fun, and life-changing moments with God. Parents, grandparents, and anyone who loves students and kids — help us get them there! You can find YTH Camp info at clifec.com/ythcamp and Best Camp Ever info at clifec.com/BCE.

Icebreaker Question

What is one item that you don't mind buying 'off brand' on? What is one thing that you will buy name brand on ALWAYS?

Starting Questions

This week, we continued our study of 1 John and talked about what it means to walk in the light. John is writing to help believers recognize the difference between empty religious claims and real fellowship with God. He reminds us that God is light, and because of that, life with Him is meant to be marked by honesty, truth, holiness, and grace.

This does not mean Christians never struggle or never sin. It means we do not have to hide from God. Because of Jesus, we can bring what is real into the light and trust Him to forgive, cleanse, and restore us.

1. When you hear the phrase “walking in the light,” what comes to mind?
 2. Why do you think honesty is such an important part of a relationship with God?
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Deeper Questions

Read 1 John 1:5–7

1. Why is it important that John starts with who God is before talking about how we live?
2. Verse 6 talks about claiming fellowship with God while walking in darkness. What are some ways people can drift into saying one thing spiritually while living another way practically?
3. Verse 7 says that when we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another. How does honesty with God affect our relationships with other people?

Read 1 John 1:8–10

1. Why do you think people are often tempted to minimize or excuse sin instead of simply naming it?
2. Where is the line between being honest about our struggles and simply “accepting” sin? How can a person know when they’ve done one or the other?
3. Why is confession such an important rhythm in the Christian life?
4. What makes confession difficult, even when we know God is gracious?

Read 1 John 2:1–2

1. What stands out to you about John calling Jesus our “Advocate”? How does knowing Jesus stands for us change the way we respond when we fail?
 2. How does the gospel make honesty with God feel safer?
 3. What would it look like this week to run toward God instead of pulling away from Him?
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Action Steps

1. Practice honest prayer.

Sometime this week, slow down and pray honestly before God. Don’t just pray around the surface-level stuff. Ask Him to show you anything you have been avoiding, excusing, or carrying alone. Then talk to Him about it plainly.

A simple prayer could be: “God, help me see what is true, trust Your grace, and walk in the light with You.”

2. Choose one step toward openness.

Walking in the light is not just personal; it also affects our relationships. Consider whether there is one trusted person you need to be more honest with — a spouse, friend, mentor, CG leader, or pastor. This does not mean sharing everything with everyone. It means refusing to live isolated and hidden.

3. Return to the gospel quickly.

When you become aware of sin, weakness, or spiritual drift, do not let shame push you further away from God. Come back quickly. Confess quickly. Trust Jesus quickly. The Christian life is not about pretending you never stumble. It is about learning to run back to the One who forgives, cleanses, and restores.

Prayer Requests Related to the Sermon

Spend time praying for your group to grow in honesty, humility, and confidence in the grace of Jesus.

Pray that God would help each person walk in the light this week.

Pray for freedom from hidden sin, shame, isolation, or spiritual pretending.

Pray that Community Groups would be places where people experience both truth and grace.

Pray that when God reveals areas of sin or drift, we would respond by running toward Him, not away from Him.

Bonus Leader Content

This week’s discussion may bring up personal topics, but it does not need to feel heavy or forced. Despite our push for confession, the goal is not to turn CG into a confession booth! The goal is to help people see that life with God is meant to be honest, grace-filled, and real. Afterwards, if there’s some personal follow up necessary, take the time to do it.

As you lead, try to create a tone that is warm and steady. If the conversation stays general at first, that is okay. Let the Scripture do the work. Model honesty without oversharing. You might

say something like, "One of the gifts of the gospel is that we don't have to pretend with God." That kind of sentence can lower the temperature in the room and help people engage without feeling exposed.

A good direction for the night is to help your group leave with hope, not heaviness. Walking in the light is not God dragging people into embarrassment. It is God inviting people into freedom. Because Jesus has already paid for sin, we can be honest about what is real and confident that God meets us with mercy, cleansing, and restoration.