

***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION*****Life and Light, or Lies      1 John 1**

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

**Day 1: Read 1 John 1:1–2.**

1. John begins his letter in a similar fashion to the way he begins his gospel. What is the foundational truth about Jesus Christ that he emphasizes in both of his prologues? (Examine 1a; Jn. 1:1–2; and Gen. 1:1.)
2. One reason 1 John was written was to counteract false beliefs creeping into the church. According to one, Jesus only *seemed* to be human. List the eyewitness action verbs that John uses to dispel this erroneous thinking.
3. What is the fixed point in history when the eternal Being took on human form, or as John pens it, “appeared to us”? (Reflect on Jn. 1:14; Lk. 1:26–35.) How was that moment determined? (Gal. 4:4)
4. By using the surprising phrase “the Word of life” (vs. 1), what is John conveying about Jesus? (See Jn. 11:25; 14:6 Heb. 1:1–2. )

**Day 2: Read 1 John 1:3–4.**

5. What difference did seeing and hearing “the Word of life” make in the lives of these eyewitnesses? What encouragement does Jesus give to those who believe by faith, not sight? (Jn. 20:29; 1 Peter 1:7–9)
6. John tells us that two wonderful gifts are available to all who believe in the incarnate Son of God. What are they? (vs. 3; cf. John 17:3, 11)
7. What benefit flows from maintaining a living fellowship with God? (vs. 4; John 15:9–11) What made this possible? (Hebrews 12:2–3)

**Day 3: Read 1 John 1:5–7.**

8. Rather than begin by pointing out errors in doctrine and morals that are surfacing in the church, John starts by teaching on the essence of God. With what two-part statement about God does John begin? (vs. 5)

9. How does John know that “God is light” (vs. 5)? What are some *light* truths that John had gleaned through firsthand knowledge?
  - a. John 3:19–21
  - b. John 8:12
  - c. John 12:35–36a
  - d. John 12:46
10. Verse 6 introduces the first of three claims that are being spread by false teachers. What is the first lie with which we can delude ourselves? Spend some moments prayerfully allowing God’s spotlight to illuminate sinful patterns in your life.

**Day 4: Read 1 John 1:5–7.**

11. What is the corrective to the particular trap of verse 6? (vss. 7a, 9) Investigate what this will look like in daily living. (Reflect on Eph. 5:8–21.)
12. How does living in fellowship with other believers counteract the lie in verse 6? (Heb. 3:12–13, 10:24–25; Eph. 4:14–16)
13. What are two positive consequences of living in the light? (vs. 7)
14. Meditate on the following passages, and relate what “purifies us from every sin” (vs. 7b). (Heb. 9:11–14; Heb. 10:8–14)

**Day 5: Read 1 John 1:8–10.**

15. In verse 8 John attacks the second claim of these false teachers. What is this fabrication, and what basic truth does it ignore? (Rom. 3:22–24)
16. What is the remedy for this horrific lie? (vs. 9)
17. There are two parts of God’s nature that make it impossible for him not to forgive when we confess. What are they? (vs. 9)
18. The last claim being made by these false teachers basically says that we no longer sin. (vs. 10) If one buys into this kind of thinking, what does John assert one is saying about God and about oneself? List some ways that our culture, as well as some in the Christian community, subtly embraces this kind of a lie.
19. There is so much to unpack in these ten short verses. What has challenged and/or encouraged you from this chapter?