



In The Light 1 John 1 Small Group Plan

Among the many times Jesus was criticized for spending time with sinners comes this story from Mark 2 ...

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Look at the last two sentences again ...

*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

I like to translate Jesus' words in this way ...

*I didn't come to help those
who **think** they're healthy.
I came to help those
who **know** they're not.*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Confess ... Conform ... Commune ...
- Why is this the order followed by a “light-walking” person?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THE WAY OF LIGHT —

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- Think about the following facts about light:
 - It is the first thing God created (Gen. 1:3-5)
 - It is equated with God's covenant (Ps. 119:105; Isa. 42:6)
 - It is a sign of God's presence (Ps. 119:11-12; Isa. 60:1-3; Jn. 3:19)
 - It pictures a life made whole by God (Eph. 5:8-9)
- Why is the gospel of John careful to describe Jesus entering history as “light shining in the darkness” (Jn. 1:4-5)?
- How would you describe a life that is “walking in the light”?
How do they live?
How do they talk?
- The first of three false claims (v. 6) is that a person can have fellowship with God, and yet walk in darkness.
- Why is this a false (“lie”) claim?
- How do most people react when someone “shines the light” on them?

— THE WAY OF TRUTH —

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

- The second false claim (v. 8) is for a person to pretend that they are free from the pull and the effect of sin.
- What is “sin”? Give it a working definition.
- Why would a person claim to be without sin? What is the motivation?
- How would you describe the person who makes such a claim?

- Why does God’s truth (v. 8) and God’s Word (v. 10) have no place in this person’s life?
- Why is “confession” (v. 9) the best alternative to pretending?
- Why is it difficult for many?

— THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS —

1 John 2:1-2

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- The heart that admits sin is not the heart that has given in to sin. On the contrary, the heart that admits failure is the heart that wants purity, and through Jesus it is available.
- Jesus is our “advocate” (v. 1):
 - How is Jesus our advocate?
 - How does it motivate you to know that he pleads your case to the Father?
- Jesus is our “atoning sacrifice” (v. 2):
 - How would you describe and define atonement?
 - What motivates his love and how can we imitate him?
 - How do you see yourself imitating Jesus? What would you do?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Is confession difficult for you? Explain.
- What is your reaction when someone “shines the light” on you? How does it feel? How do you usually respond?
- How do you see yourself imitating Jesus? What part of his life can you see yourself duplicating and reproducing?
- Close in prayer asking for the Father of light to bring spiritual clarity to you.