

## 1 John 1:1-4

**General Information:** A reasonable date for 1 John is A.D. 90-95. It was likely written from Ephesus to the churches of Asia Minor over which John exercised apostolic leadership. Although he was greatly advanced in age when he penned this epistle, John was still actively ministering to churches. He was the sole remaining apostolic survivor who had intimate, eyewitness association with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension

John wrote this letter with two basic purposes in mind:

- (1) to expose and refute false teachers, and
- (2) to give Christians assurance of salvation.

By giving eyewitness testimony to the incarnation, John sought to confirm his readers' belief in the incarnate Christ.

Read 1 John 1:1-2:2

*Discussion starter:*

*What normally comes to mind:*

- a) when you think of fellowship with others?
- b) when you think of fellowship with God?

1. According to 1:1-4, what is the purpose of John's letter? What do these verses (particularly verse 1's reference to "what we have heard..., seen..., and our hands have touched") tell you about the nature of Christian faith generally, and fellowship with God particularly? What is John trying to get across about fellowship with God?

2. Is our faith "a leap in the dark" without proof? Explain.

3. How do you think most people would react to the claim that fellowship with God is a genuine possibility? Why might they react that way? How could you respond to their reasons?

4. These verses picture a pure, richly intimate communion with God that many believers do not regularly enjoy. What are some reasons why our own fellowship with God may be lacking?

5. Is there a sense that we missed out on really knowing Christ because we did not physically walk with him?

6. Back in verse 1 John refers to Jesus as The Word of Life. What does this mean? How many others in history could claim this?

7. This letter will be about John telling us what real Christianity is like. Take some time and think of what you would say are the main things that indicate someone is truly a follower of Jesus.

Write the down and compare them to what John will say over the next few weeks.