



## EYES WIDE OPEN

With eyes wide open you can \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ the darkness, and \_\_\_\_\_ in His light!

## THE CONTEXT

**AUTHOR** - According to Irenaeus (AD 180) the author of the gospel of John, Revelation, and the three letters is John the Apostle (beloved disciple of Jesus: John 21:7, 24, Revelation 1:9).

- John the Apostle discipled Polycarp who discipled Irenaeus.
- However, in AD 150, Papias argued “The Elder” of 2-3 John was not the Apostle John.
- All agree that John was an eye witness of Jesus’ ministry.

**DATE** - The three letters of John were written between AD 85-100.

**RECIPIENTS** - John wrote the letters to the early community of house churches in Asian Minor who were most influenced by John’s Gospel and leadership.

**ISSUES** - False Teachers were rising up among the house churches who were teaching:

- **Gnosticism:** the belief that in every human, the spirit is good, and the body is bad.
- **Docetism:** the belief that Jesus’ body was not human, only appeared to be human.

# THE VISION LOOP - 1 JOHN 1:1-4

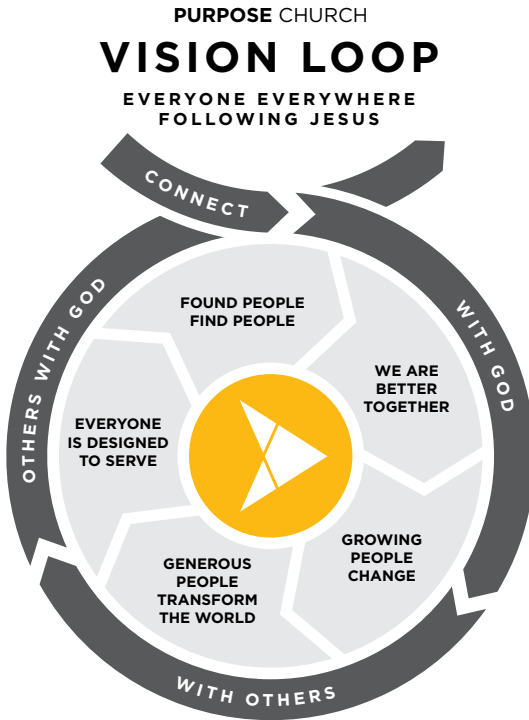
Living on mission looks like ...

Connecting with God

Connecting with Others

Connecting Others with God

If the way you \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus doesn't lead to \_\_\_\_\_  
following Jesus—it's time to \_\_\_\_\_.



# LIGHT & DARKNESS - 1 JOHN 1:5-10

1. How can I stop walking in the darkness?

Be \_\_\_\_\_ with yourself and God.

2. How can I start walking in the Light?

\_\_\_\_\_ your sin to God.

**Fill in the blanks:** see, spot, walk, follow, others, re-evaluate, honest, Confess

*This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends, and Life Group.*

## OPEN UP

When was a time you were afraid of the dark while growing up?

## UNDERSTANDING JOHN'S LETTER

What are you learning about the background and who John is writing to that can help you better understand these letters?

Circle the word 'if' throughout this first chapter. How many times does it appear? Identify what important condition or result it is highlighting each time.

## THE WORD OF LIFE (1:1-4)

How did God reveal Himself to us (1:2)?

What does "fellowship" mean? With whom did this community of believers have fellowship (1:3-4)?

Which fellowship (closeness in relationship) do you find easier to maintain: with God or with others? What thing most gets in the way?

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT (1:5-10)

How willing are you to let your thoughts, attitudes, words, actions, and habits be examined under the pure light of God? Use a scale of 1-10 (1 = much less willing, 10 = much more willing)

What areas of your life do you keep “in the dark” or hidden from God and other people?

From what you see in verse 7, when we “walk in the light,” what impact does it have on our relationships?

What hope does John give us when we fail to live in the light of God’s love (1:9)?

### APPLY

What can you do this week or during the next six weeks of this study to deepen your fellowship with God? With others?

What will you do this week to incorporate confession and “walking in the light” into your daily routine?

### CHALLENGE

Identify one person from your oikos (the 8-15 in your sphere of relationships) with whom you would like to share what you have seen, heard, and experienced in your relationship with Jesus? Ask your Life Group to pray for this person.

### This Week’s Bible Reading

Day 1 - 1 John 1:1-2

Day 2 - 1 John 1:3-4

Day 3 - 1 John 1:5-6

Day 4 - 1 John 1:7-8

Day 5 - 1 John 1:9-10

### SOAP Study

The SOAP study method is a simple, yet powerful tool to help guide you into deeper understanding and life application of the Bible. There is a section in the Growth Binder that introduces you to this method and provides pages to help you get the most out of your personal Bible study.