

## I John – Introduction

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I John 1:1-4

April 11th, 2021

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **We can easily misunderstand what matters most about our spirituality**

Near the end of his life, John narrowed the list of what it means to follow Jesus down to the essentials.

\*Can you recall something about God or His nature that you misunderstood at one time?

#### **John wants to share how important it is to get some essential things right**

Read and discuss I John 1:1-4(ESV)

*I That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About us?

\*Why does John seem to be writing this letter?

\*Why does he call attention to the fact he was physically present with Jesus?

\*Does our inability to be with Jesus physically hinder our fellowship? Why or why not?

#### **God is always offering greater understanding and deeper fellowship to us**

This is the trajectory of maturity as Christians.

\*How does misunderstanding stunt intimacy and fellowship?

\*How have you seen this at work in your relationship with others and with God?

#### **John wrote this letter to deepen our fellowship with God**

As our misunderstandings decrease, our intimacy in fellowship increases.

\*Is there somewhere in your life or relationship with God that you have been able to clear away a misunderstanding that's led to greater intimacy?

\*What role does humility play in our growing understanding?

\*How do we keep ourselves open to mature and seek out misunderstandings?

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\*** [Distill III](#) by Ed Nash

**Song for reflection** [King of My Heart](#) by Will Morrison

\*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.