

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

An Illuminating Truth

1 John 1:5-10

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Are you a Coke or Pepsi person? Why?

“God is light.” How does that statement *hit* you? In what ways is it compelling? Confusing? Something else?

God is light. Discuss the differences between understanding that as a “gotcha” light, versus a “walk this way,” or “walk with me” light; not so much for punishment as for participation.

Key Truth: You don’t know the truth until you live the truth

To live the truth you must:

- **Look to the light for clarity**

What became most clear to you when you became a Christian?

When you share your faith, what is hardest to make clear? Why?

What are some other places in the Bible where light is used as a metaphor for God, for Christ, or for followers of Christ? What does that say about the importance of this metaphor in the Bible?

- **Own your darkness in honesty** (Ephesians 5:8; John 8:12)

Danger of lying—to self, to others, to God

Where in the Bible can you think of stories that reflect this pattern of a 3-fold lie?

Division of lying

Share a story about someone who has called you on a lie, or when you did that with someone.

How did you feel? What did it accomplish?

It’s possible for biblical knowledge and spiritual failure to go hand-in-hand. How have you experienced this in your life?

- **Confess your sin for remedy**

How does verse 9 speak to someone who says, “I can’t forgive myself”?

Are you more likely to ignore confession of sin or engage in it? Why? What are some practical things you can do to make consistent confession a part of your life?

What would you say to someone who repeatedly sins in some way, confesses, commits the same sin again, confesses, commits the same sin again, confesses, etc.? What do you think about that pattern?