

### ON AN ISLAND

You went on a three-hour tour (haha) and ended up on an island with four friends that work in the same office. They are able to find food and water, and you start a campfire.

After eating, one lady is in quiet contemplation. You ask her, “Would you like to share your thoughts with us?” She answers, “This accident has made me think about what I believe. I am reflecting on my grandparents. They used to pray at dinner and would always conclude with “in Jesus’ name.” I don’t know what that means. I guess I should, but I don’t.”

One man speaks up, “They were praying to Jesus.”

Then, they all look at you because you always pray before lunch. The lady asks you, “Is that what that means? And why Jesus? What’s so special about a man who lived a long time ago?”

As you consider your answer, you remember that you found one page out of your pocket Bible. You reach into your pocket and find these words:

*“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We write this to make our joy complete.”*

What can you share with your friends as to why Jesus is “so special?” Why would they want to know about Him?

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

How do you feel about your own ability to share about Jesus and the good news of why He came? Do you trust in God to be His agent of good news? Do you walk and pray through your days, trusting that the Holy Spirit empowers you to fulfill God's work? We can all improve in our ability to trust in Him. He loves to answer these prayers.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

Why do you suppose that John mentions the senses so often? What does this reveal? Why is this important?

John's purpose is that "you also might have fellowship with us." For you, what does genuine fellowship with God look like? What does fellowship with others look like? Is this something that all people desire?

Pastor Doug Baker shared that the tenets of ancient Gnosticism are in our culture today. How are we seeing this? How can we help our friends who are caught up in this? (Below are four tenets)

- 1) Freedom is found by escaping any natural created order
- 2) Freedom is found by looking within
- 3) Being a fulfilled human being means obeying your inner feelings
- 4) Being human means creating your own identity

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

- Please pray for our kid's and student ministries. They are facing the effects of our lost culture every day
- Please pray for our Search Committee who are interviewing candidates soon
- Please pray for your Global Partners as they reach out to their worlds