

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### It's All About Jesus (1 John #1)

Week of Sept 9, 2018

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just "get through the questions" (there's no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

### ICEBREAKER (Optional)

Share your first name and then answer this question: If you HAD to join one fan club this week, what fan club would you join?

### DISCUSSION

1. What are some things (objects, people, philosophies, etc.) that people in our American culture treat as of ultimate importance?

*Read 1 John 1:1-4. (Idea: Read the passage from two different translations.)*

2. a. What words/concepts do you see being repeated and/or emphasized through this opening section of John's letter?  
  
b. What was John trying to emphatically get across to his readers?  
  
c. Why do you think John started his letter this way, rather than in typical first century pattern (introducing self, then declaring to whom the letter is written)?



3. a. One of John's goals through this letter is to combat the false teaching of Gnosticism. Gnosticism asserts anything physical is evil. Which would mean if Jesus had a body, he was evil. So some Christians were teaching Jesus came in spirit only. How do you see John combating this belief in this passage?  
  
b. From these four verses, what appear to be some of John's other goals in writing this letter?

### MAKING IT PERSONAL

4. a. In question 1, you shared some thoughts about what some people in our culture treat as being of ultimate importance. If you feel comfortable sharing aloud, what are some things YOU treat as if they were of ultimate importance (but if you're honest, you know aren't truly of ultimate importance)?  
  
b. In what ways can you make the Gospel story of Jesus of ultimate importance in your life this week?

### MEMORY VERSE

*"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—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." (1 John 1:1-2)*

### PRAYER

Close in prayer for one another (and the Riverwood family) to make Jesus the most important "thing" in life.

