



# This Week

Churchwide
<b>Worship Services</b> Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
<b>Bible Fellowships</b> Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
<b>GriefShare</b> Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM in the Library
Small Groups
<b>Community Groups</b> Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM at various homes
Adult Studies
<b>The Book of Matthew</b> Wednesday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Dining Room
<b>The Feast Days of Israel</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Tejas Room
<b>What Did You Expect?</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209
Men
<b>Solid Answers to Serious Questions</b> Tuesday, 6:00–7:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft
<b>Samson Society</b> Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library
<b>Friday Morning Study</b> Friday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Tejas Room

Women
<b>Engage: Understanding Purpose</b> Monday, 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209
<b>Understanding and Helping People</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Mesquite Room
Senior Adults
<b>Tuesday Afternoon Study</b> Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in Room 111
Senior High
<b>Senior High Youth</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at The G.Y.M.
<b>Disciple Now</b> Friday–Sunday at The G.Y.M. and host homes
Junior High
<b>Junior High Youth</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at The G.Y.M.
<b>Disciple Now</b> Friday–Sunday at The G.Y.M. and host homes
5th & 6th Grade
<b>Breakaway</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft
Children
<b>Kids’ Quest</b> Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Children’s Area

# This Morning

**Lesson 1: The Purpose of John’s Letter**—*1 John 1:1–4*  
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I.   **The central subject:** The apostles had experienced an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as the divine message of eternal life—*1 John 1:1*.
  - From a grammatical perspective, the “word of life” is a *what*, i.e. God’s message about eternal life.
  - From a contextual perspective, the “Word of life” is a *who*, i.e. Jesus Christ—*John 1:1; Revelation 19:13*.
  - From a biblical perspective, the “Word of life” is both a *what* and a *who*, i.e. Jesus Christ is God’s message about eternal life—*1 John 5:11–12*.
- II.   **The apostolic report:** The apostles’ observation of the fellowship that existed between the Father and His Son led John to record those principles of intimacy in this letter—*1 John 1:2*.
  - John observed the way in which the Father and Son enjoyed intimacy together and recorded those principles for our well-being.
- III.   **The specific purpose:** John’s purpose in writing this letter is to draw his redeemed readership into the same kind of intimacy with the Godhead that the apostolic circle had experienced with Jesus during his earthly ministry—*1 John 1:3*.
  - The fellowship, which the apostles experienced with the Son of God, is made available to us by following the principles recorded by the apostle John in this letter.
- IV.   **The resulting joy:** John provided the principles to experience fellowship with God so His readers could experience the greatest possible joy in this life—*1 John 1:4*.
  - The experience of joy in coming to faith in Jesus Christ is made complete or is fulfilled when we are able to enjoy a relationship of intimacy with God.

# Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning’s topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

1. Have you ever daydreamed about being one of the original disciples? Without being there with Jesus physically, what do you feel you are missing out on?
2. How can the “Word of life” be both a what and a who in this passage? Use John 17:3 and 1 John 5:11–13 to discuss.
3. What do you think the difference is between having a relationship with God and having fellowship with Him? What is required of you in each?
4. What would we miss out on if we never moved from relationship to fellowship with God?