



*Living
and Loving
in the
Light*

9 STUDIES IN 1 JOHN



Our midweek
growth groups
are the heart of our church
life together. They are, as the
name suggests, about growing!
We grow in...



- ***Our understanding of God's Word***

Our studies follow the Sunday sermons, and there's lots of room for interaction, discussion and questions.

- ***Our love for God***

Meeting together is truly life-changing as God works powerfully in us by His Spirit through His Word.

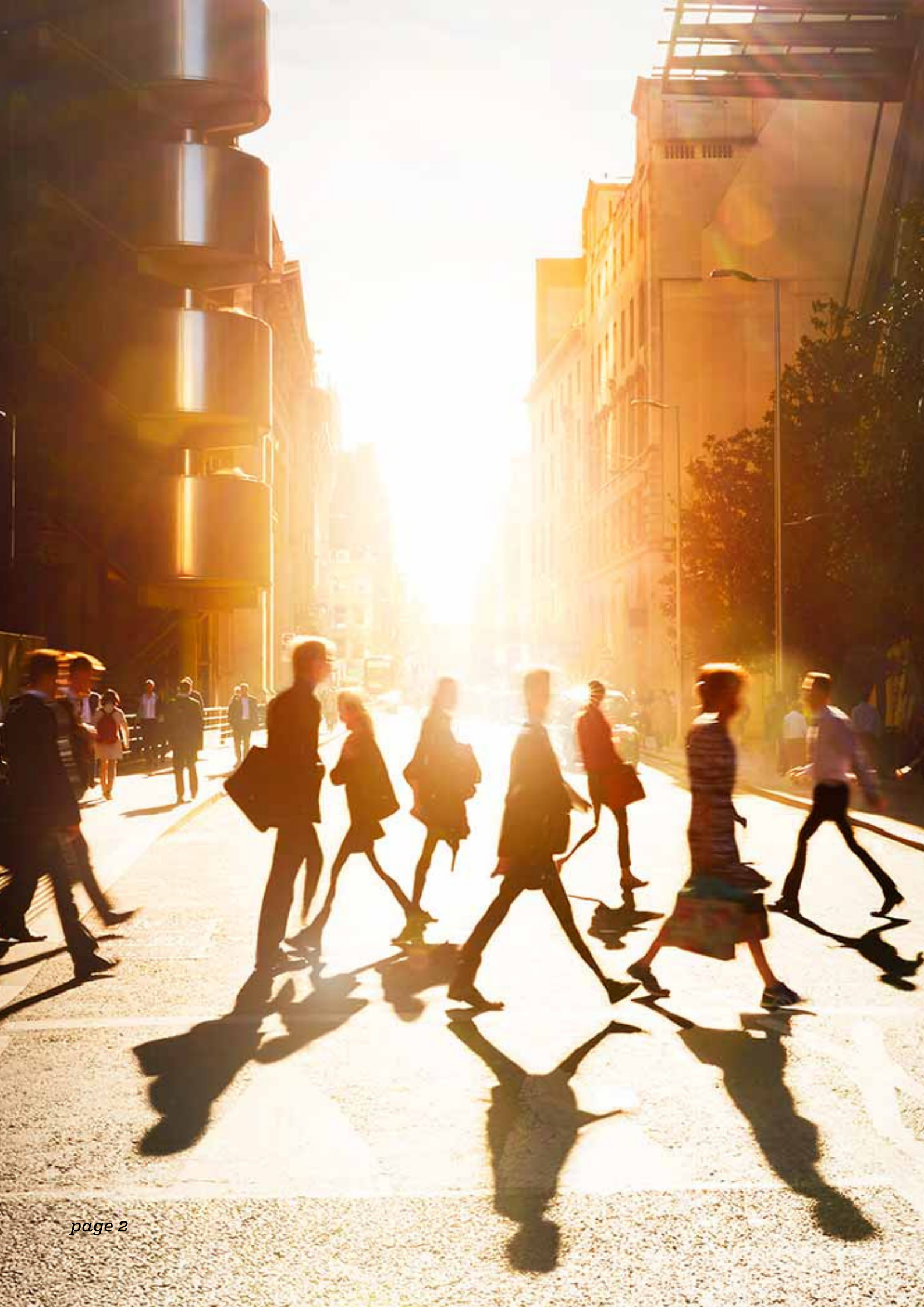
- ***our love for God's family***

They're a great place to build real, encouraging friendships, while providing opportunities to practically serve, care and pray for one another.

- ***our love for God's world***

Our groups are a place where we can pray and partner with one another in God's mission to the world.

in His love & grace,



study 1 **LIFE & LIGHT** 1 John 1:1-10

study 2 **SIN, SACRIFICE & ASSESSMENT** 1 John 2:1-14

study 3 **REMAIN** 1 John 2:15-27

study 4 **CONTINUE** 1 John 2:28-3:10

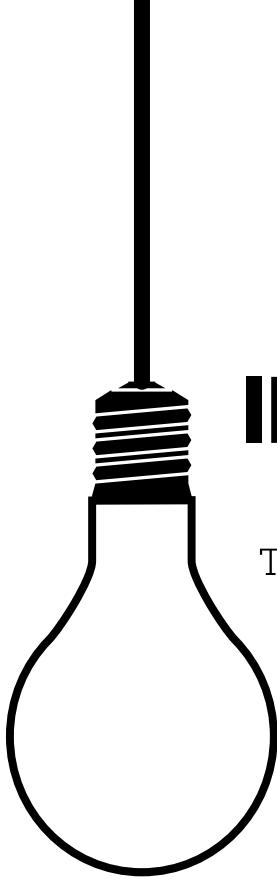
study 5 **LOVE & OBEY** 1 John 3:11-24

study 6 **THE SPIRIT TEST** 1 John 4:1-6

study 7 **GOD IS LOVE** 1 John 4:7-21

study 8 **THE VICTORIOUS LIFE** 1 John 5:1-12

study 9 **REST ASSURED** 1 John 5:13-21



INTRODUCING 1 JOHN

There are so many different 'Christian' voices claiming to speak the truth. How can we be sure of the real truth about Jesus? How can we know that we are true believers? How can we tell if others are truly from God or not?

John wrote to churches that had been infiltrated and influenced by people teaching what is false. And this caused various reactions ranging from doubt about Jesus and uncertainty about salvation to a complacency around sin and a compromise with the world.

For John's readers, and us today, this letter is deeply reassuring and encouraging. At the same time it is disturbing and challenging. John's 'black and white' style has a way of cutting through our defences and exposing our hearts. And yet he also has a very sensitive way of reassuring us that if we've trusted in Jesus then we belong to Him forever. This letter speaks to the thick-skinned and the tender-hearted - it both disturbs the comfortable and comforts the disturbed.


John's style of writing is also flowing and artful, rather than tight and sequential. Reading this letter is like climbing a spiral staircase and looking out various windows on the way

up. It's a beautiful experience, though it may take a bit of acclimatising to the way John writes. As you ascend you look out over the same view or theme again and again, though each time gaining a slightly higher and fresher perspective. This leads to a stunning panorama at the end of the letter.

John's letter is written to assure true believers in their relationship with the Lord and to encourage them to keep walking in the truth and in love so that they may continue to enjoy fellowship with God. To this end John proclaims the way of truth and love as it is found in Jesus the Christ, and warns against the teaching of those who, though they claim great things, are in fact enemies of the truth.

The word 'know' is used 33 times! John wants his readers to be assured of the apostle's testimony about Jesus, to rest assured in our salvation, to not compromise or be complacent with respect to the world or sin, and to distinguish between truth and error and between true and false teachers. Ultimately John is concerned that his readers won't turn away from Jesus to idols, and so continue to live and love in the light.

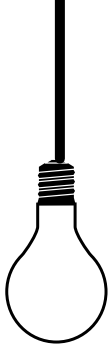
in His love & grace,

A person is walking away from the camera on a path covered in fallen autumn leaves. The path is flanked by tall, thin trees with bare branches. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a bright sun or a clear day. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Study 1
LIFE & LIGHT

1 John 1:1-10

**“God is light;
in Him there is
no darkness at all”**



Study 1

LIFE & LIGHT

1 John 1:1-10



Starter

1. What are some 'foundations' that the world encourages people to build their lives on?



Read verses 1-4

2. To 'what' does John 'testify' or give evidence?

3. Why is such eyewitness testimony so important? (Note the link between the events, 'we' and 'you'.)

4. How do these verses emphasise the reality and depth of the relationship between the Father and the Son?

5. What is the purpose of the apostles' testimony? What is John's purpose in writing? And how do these two purposes connect?



Read verses 5-10

6. What does John mean when he says ‘God is light’? (Consider how John uses ‘darkness’ and ‘light’)

7. What false claims does John tackle in verses 6-7 and 8-10? What belief is behind each claim? And how does John answer?

8. What does it mean to ‘walk in the light’?

9. How do these verses help us understand sin? What is the difference between 'sins' and 'sin'? (ie. between a present act and a continuous state)



Apply

(Answer all these questions personally, but as a group choose one or two to focus on.)

10. “You can’t trust the Bible. The New Testament documents aren’t reliable!” In the light of this passage how would you respond to such a statement?

11. What distinguishes friendship from Christian fellowship?

12. How does our world/culture (eg. media, entertainment and government) downplay and redefine sin? How have we been influenced by a worldly view with respect to our own sin?

13. How might sharing truths about Jesus make our own joy complete?



Prayer Notes