

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

**Lesson #1: “Love is Driven by Sincere Faith”
1 John 1:1-4**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is something you discovered at some point in your life that you just couldn't keep inside? You were so excited that you just had to tell people.

The Bottom Line: Love that is driven by a sincere faith investigates and then shares the truth.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Read 1 John 1:1-4 and then read the Gospel of John 1:1-14

1. What similarity do you see between this letter and the Gospel?
2. Why would John say this One they have heard was from the beginning? What would that mean to the readers in John's day?

Beginning = archē; means without origin, that which is first and from which something commences from. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End.

Question – Who are some of the brilliant minds people have placed their hope in?

Question – How is this information a help to your faith?

Question – How could you use this information with someone looking for truth?

Question – What did Solomon conclude at the end of Ecclesiastes after searching for the meaning of life in every possibility the world offers?

Read Ecclesiastes 11:9-14



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Fear God and stand in awe of the Creator as you grasp the fact that His reality and His power are breath-taking. Then, just follow and learn from Him. That is the meaning of life!

Background – John wrote this letter to members of the churches in Asia Minor. The same churches mentioned in the 7 letters of Revelation. The letter addresses broad moral topics and John is giving them directions for the new challenges to their faith. False teachers have crept into the church and are twisting the Truth, especially the Key Truth of Jesus’ deity (Godness) and His resurrection. John’s message was to focus on your walk and don’t be swayed by slick teaching and preaching and slide into sinful lifestyles. He warns them about loving the stuff this world will dangle in front of them like a piece of chocolate. He points them to follow Christ and embrace the love for others that Jesus embraced. Walk in love and Truth and everyone will be blessed and we will make an impact on this world. You might say God really, really wants us to listen to Solomon’s conclusion on the matter of the meaning of life!

- ⌚ How does the purpose of this letter apply to our desire and purpose for God to do “Greater Things” through each one of us?

- 3. Why does John say this letter is being written?
 - a. *So the audience and the Apostles will all have _____ together with each other and the Father and the Son*
 - b. *To make their joy _____*

- 4. What does this word “fellowship” mean to this audience?

Fellowship = KOINONIA; participation, to share, to be joined as a society)

- ⌚ How is your church a Koinonia?

- ⌚ Describe your experiences past and present in the fellowship with all God’s people, the apostles and the Father and the Son.



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5. Who is the “we” that John is referring to?

John is writing this but he uses “we” because it is part of the Truth written alongside the other apostles who were eyewitnesses to the truth. “We” simply refers to all of the group that Jesus’ set apart to proclaim the Word of God they had received from the Lord and been guided to teach, preach and record as the Holy Spirit moved them along. He is part of those the Holy Spirit of God used to write the New Testament that completes all of God’s Truth.

6. How could this information on the Christian walk complete their joy?

This letter is written to create a deeper spiritual growth within all believers. The apostles had tremendous joy every time people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. However, their ability to recognize false teachers and grow in loving and caring like Jesus, being the light of the world would complete their joy. You might say, “John is ecstatic at the thought of Disciples who understand what it means to follow your master, to learn His teaching, to apply it and become ever more like Him. The purpose of this letter is to direct the believers to embrace being a true disciple of Christ. That would tickle them all to death!)

Question – What is the greatest smell you’ve ever smelled, something that you couldn’t breathe in enough?

Now, picture the image of a net so full of fish that you can’t pull it in. The net is breaking and the boat is about to tip over. These are the images of the Greek word that is used for “complete.” It is a metaphor that meant, “It just can’t get any better than this! Wow!”

⌚ In what ways do you think we are making the apostles’ joy complete?

⌚ In what ways do you think we fail to make the apostles’ joy complete?



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Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **Discuss at each table how we can embrace what we have learned and how we can help other people in the church grasp God's longing for us to make His joy complete by our walk of faith.**



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you” (1 Cor. 13:11).