

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

PROOF | Real Life | I John 1:1-4

October 14, 2018 - James Armstrong

QUICK REVIEW

1. As you consider this week's worship gathering, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? It could have been through a song, the sermon, another person, or an experience..

MIXER

2. How do you determine if dollar bills are real or counterfeit? What is the government agency considered to be the expert for investigating counterfeit money?

MY STORY

3. Can you think of a time or place where you believed that you really knew someone or something and later found out you were wrong? How did that change you?
4. Considering the mixer and the question above, how does one determine true Christianity verses false Christianity? Who is responsible for determining the difference?
5. First John 1:3 speaks about fellowship between John, the letter's recipients, the Father, and the Son. In your relationships with other Christians, what have you experienced that was special or different from your relationships with non-Christians, including those in the cults?

DIGGING DEEPER

6. John gives three tests to provide proof of true fellowship with God and assurance we are true believers: Doctrinal test (correct beliefs), moral test (reflect beliefs through lifestyle), and ethical test (express beliefs through love). What are key examples of:
 - a. Correct doctrinal beliefs
 - b. Godly lifestyle choices
 - c. Expressions of love

TAKING IT HOME (APPLICATION)

7. Is there anything in my belief system, lifestyle choices or the way I outwardly reflect Christ's love that needs examination or change?
8. First John 1:4 is just one of many passages that speak of joy as a benefit of following Christ. Read other passages like John 15:11, John 16:24, Psalm 51:12, Jeremiah 15:16, Galatians 5:22, and James 1:2-3. How and why have you experienced joy? Are there additional things you need to consider or do to experience fuller joy?

For additional study material, go to bthl.ch/ggl

REAL LIFE

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- I. The True Beginnings Rev 1:19; Jn 20:31;
I Jn 5:13;
 - A. There are 4 world-changing opening words in the Bible. Gen 1:1; Mk 1:1;
Jn 1:1;
 - B. The Deity of Christ is central to our faith. Jn 1:1-3; 8:58; Ex 3:14;
Phil 2:6-8; Col 1:15-20;
Heb 1:1-3
 - C. John was an eyewitness. Jn 5:6-12
 - D. The manifestation of God was visible.
- II. True Fellowship Was Revealed I Jn 2:23-25
- III. We Experience True Joy Jn 15:11; 16:24
 - A. We find joy in our salvation. Ps 51:12
 - B. We find joy in the Word of God. Jer 15:16
 - C. We find joy as we serve. Ps 100:2
 - D. We find joy in the Spirit. Gal 5:22
 - E. We find joy in the trials in life. Js 1:2-3
 - F. We find joy as we share our faith. I Jn 1:4