

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALKING TOGETHER

1 John 1:1-4, ESV – 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— ² 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— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that John proclaimed his message for the fellowship. What is fellowship? Why is it important for followers of Christ?

2 John also proclaimed his message for the joy. What is the joy he is talking about? Why is it important for followers of Christ?

- 3 What is the difference between happiness and joy? Why does joy abide, but happiness does not?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Hebrews 10:22-25, ESV** – ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- 4 Looking at the passage above, what are the three “let us” statements? Why does John use the pronoun “us”?

- 5 What does it look like to “draw near with a true heart,” to “hold fast the confession of our hope,” and to “consider how to stir up one another”?

- 6 Why should believers not stop meeting together? (i.e., How is fellowship with other believers an integral part in fellowship with God?)

B **John 15:9-11, ESV** – ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 17:11-13, ESV – ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

- 7 Looking at John 15:9-11, why do believers need to abide (remain) in His love? What do you think it means to not abide in His love?

8 Looking at John 17:11-13, what does Jesus mean by “they may be one”?

9 What does Jesus mean by “your joy may be full” and “my joy fulfilled in themselves”? What does a church “full of joy” look like? What can stop us and the church from being filled with joy?

TAKING IT HOME

Like John, believers are supposed to proclaim so others can have fellowship with us and fellowship with God. How are you doing with proclaiming the gospel? How are you doing with fellowshiping with others and with God? How is your joy? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you walk together in fellowship and joy.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 1:1,4,14; 11:25-26; 17:1-3