

Focus passage: 1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

What stands out to you from this passage?

Were you (or are you still) afraid of the dark? Why do you think darkness can be so scary?

What is it like to walk in darkness? What do you think darkness represents?

What is the relationship of light to darkness? Does one have power over the other? Which one is associated with God, and why?

*Associations of God with light go back to the very beginning. Read **Genesis 1:1-5**, **John 8:12-20**, and **John 1:1-5** for examples.*

Although we are to walk in the light, there is acknowledgement that we will still struggle against sin. What is the right response to sin?

We all need to confess our sins and to think otherwise, to think we have no need for it, is a sin, itself. A result of this is that we deceive ourselves (v8), but we also do what to God (v10)?

What does it mean to make God a liar?

If we present ourselves as perfect and sinless rather than as sinners relying on God's grace and forgiveness, that is hypocrisy and is not in line with what God has shown us. Do you ever feel pressured to be perfect because you are a Christian?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

