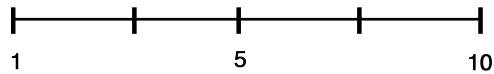


- God doesn't want you to **survive** through life, but to thrive in life.

How would you rate your intimacy with Jesus?



Reason for the letter:

- He wanted believers to have **assurance** of eternal life.

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13 (NLT)

My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion. 1 John 5:13 (MSG)

Real love grows in the soil of **assurance**.

Your assurance with God comes from your **intimacy** with God.

- He wants them to grow in their **fellowship** with Jesus and each other.

From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in—we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:1-3 (MSG)

God doesn't want a religious experience **for** you, He wants a relationship **with** you.

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 1 John 1:5 (NLT)

Walking in the light means:

- We allow God's light to **expose** our sin.
- We continually deal with our **sin**.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 1 John 1:6 (NIV)

Fellowship with God is not validated with your **lips**, its validated with your **walk**.

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 (NLT)

- We accept that our human nature is **dark** and immoral.

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 1 John 1:8 (NLT)

- We live with the reality that **confession** to God is ongoing.

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. 1 John 1:10 (NLT)

Long term intimacy with Jesus is rooted in **honesty**.

How do we walk in the light:

- Don't mess around with stuff that gets you into **trouble**.

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin... 1 John 2:1 (NLT)

...But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 1 John 2:1b (NLT)

- When you mess up remember that you have someone in your **corner**.

He is the one who took God's wrath against our sins upon himself and brought us into fellowship with God; and he is the forgiveness for our sins, and not only ours but all the world's. 1 John 2:2 (TLB)

- Our obedience to him will reveal how **close** we are to him.

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 1 John 2:3-5 (NLT)

Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1 John 2:6 (NIV)

- When you need an example to follow, choose **Jesus**.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you feel you are surviving or thriving in life? Explain the difference.
- What does it mean to "Live in the Light"?
- Why does love grow in the soul of assurance rather than fear? Do you have the assurance that you will spend eternity in heaven? Do you struggle with knowing you are going to heaven? Explain
- Why does our assurance with God come from intimacy with God?
- What does it mean to allow God to expose our sin? Can you share a time when God has done that recently?
- How do we continually deal with our sin? (What does that mean?)
- Why is fellowship with God validated through our walk?
- How do we confess our sins to God? How often? What is our heart behind this action?
- Why is long term intimacy with Jesus rooted in honesty? Can you have intimacy without honesty?
- Have you identified the "Stuff" that gets you into trouble? How do you stay away from it?
- What does it mean that Jesus is in your corner? Why is that important?
- Why does our obedience reveal our closeness to Him?
- Do you think it's possible to walk as Jesus walked?

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