

# NCC I John Devotional

## Week 1

### **Read—1 John 1:1-10**

#### **Proclamation of the Light**

John was there. He walked and talked with Jesus; therefore he could proclaim freely and fully the message that he heard. He understood that the Word is a person and a message and could not be separated. In order to truly live the life God has planned for each of us, we must understand the character of God. This is the foundation of our lifestyle in how we live out our faith.

John wanted us to experience complete joy that only comes as a result of an intimate fellowship with Jesus. Our joy increases as our intimacy increases. Nothing in this world will fill the longing that Jesus placed in our heart. We long only for Him. John made clear why he was writing in verse 4. “We write this to make our joy complete.” It may come to mind as to how it is possible to truly have complete joy.

Our lifestyle must reflect the light of Christ. Verse 5 clearly declares “God is light; in him there is not darkness at all.” Light and darkness cannot appear at the same time, so if we do not confess our sins before God we are separated from Him. We must be honest about our condition and fall humbly before Him if His light is to shine brightly through us. This is a large part of finding true joy. We must be clean before God to have an unbroken fellowship.

John continues to expose false claims that interfere with this fellowship: we can’t have a partnership without morality; we can’t deny our sinful nature; we must be held accountable to God. As we truly understand that we forfeit our joy when we hide our sins, we will also realize we no longer reflect God’s character. There can’t be rationalization or comparison in regard to our sin. We must come before Him and confess knowing that He is faithful to forgive.

### **Group Discussion**

1. How would you summarize the key message in this chapter?
2. What experiences have you had that give you confidence to proclaim your faith?
3. Read the following verses and discuss their meaning: John 3:29; John 15:11; John 16:24. Do you think it's possible to have complete joy?
4. When have you felt like you were walking in darkness? What did it take to "walk in the light?"
5. Reread verse 7 and Hebrews 9:13-14. How do you connect the blood of Jesus to serving Him?
6. What is confession? What does confession do for you?
7. Have you ever rationalized your sin or compared it to others? If so, did it help you feel better? If not, what was necessary to free you?
8. Contrast at least 2 things that John says God is and isn't.

### **Life Application**

1. After reading the passage, discuss the verse that most spoke to you and why
2. Discuss a time when your fellowship was broken with a brother or sister in Christ. How did that affect your relationship with Christ?
3. We are called to reflect God's character. Give specific examples of how we can be a light to a dark world. Is there something you can act on tomorrow?
4. Discuss among the group at least one person (no names are necessary) in your life where Truth needs to prevail in their life. Find a verse to support that truth, memorize it and talk about opportunities present it to that person.
5. Take some quiet time and read 2 Chronicles 7:14 & Psalm 32:5. Have you felt God convicting you in a certain area? If so, spend time right now confessing your sin before God and asking Him to give you a truly repentant heart.