



BIG IDEA

The more compelling your experience with Christ the more compelled you are to share it.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Have you ever had a “wouldn’t believe it if I hadn’t seen it myself” moment? What happened?

Read 1 John 1:1-4. What are some key words or phrases that stand out to you?

Your group may notice that John uses the words **proclaim, fellowship, heard, seen and touched** several times in these few short verses.

Why do you think John started out his letter in this manner? Support your answer.

John starts out his letter by reminding his readers that he actually knew and experienced Jesus in the flesh. He is a firsthand witness to everything Jesus did in his life, ministry, death and resurrection. He was with Jesus, and that makes him credible. We should listen to him!

Why is it so important to John that he proclaim that Jesus was a real, flesh and blood human?

There were several prominent heresies at the time which claimed that Jesus didn’t really become a human (Gnosticism and Docetism). John knew that if people accepted this false teaching, they would be led astray from the true gospel: that Jesus is God in the flesh who died to make a way for us to be in right relationship with him.

Read Acts 4:13-22. How does this narrative help you to deepen your understanding of John and his experience of Jesus?

John had the same mentality in this letter he wrote near the end of his life as he did in Acts shortly after he experienced the resurrection. He couldn’t not talk about Jesus, even though doing so would put him in danger. Is there anything that you experienced 5, 10 or 50 years ago that you still feel as strongly about today?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

If you had to evaluate your *experience of Jesus* based on the *way you talk about Jesus* to others, what conclusions would you draw?

When was the last time you felt compelled to share your experience of Jesus with someone else?

Does Jesus seem like a real, flesh and blood person to you? Or is Jesus more of an abstract concept? Explain your answer.

It has hard to wrap our minds around the fact that Jesus is real. That he God in the flesh. Many times we live as if Jesus were some ethereal being, floating around somewhere. John is trying to tell us that Jesus is the kind of God that we can get close to—and that Jesus is the kind of God that wants us to see him, touch him and experience him.





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read Psalm 145. What does this passage have in common with **1 John 1:1-4** and **Acts 4:13-22**? Each of these passages exemplify this week's big idea: the more compelling your experience with Christ the more compelled you are to share it.

How can your enthusiasm about your faith impact those around you?

Reflect back on your day or week. What kinds of things did you find yourself talking about? What can you learn about yourself from this?

Reflecting on this question can help your group members wrestle with the possibility that Jesus may not be as compelling to them as their hobbies, careers or other relationships.

In what ways can your faith in Jesus become a part of daily conversation?

We tend to talk about the things we are thinking about and experiencing. If you are in the middle of a good book, you may be compelled to talk about the plot. If you are researching a purchase, that will likely come up in conversation very naturally. If you have a favorite TV show or product, you probably talk about it with your friends and coworkers. How can we use this natural tendency to our benefit when it comes to sharing faith with others?

What is the most compelling experience you have had with Christ? Who might God be asking you to share this with?

