

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- **Humanity**

**“I believe that each person possesses a sinful nature and is in need of God’s forgiveness.”**

- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

### Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

### Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

**A**s we enter into this amazing little epistle from John, I pray that you are expectant. Expectant to learn new truth from God’s Word, expectant to grow in your understanding of God’s character and His ways and expectant to deepen your ownership of your true identity in Jesus. There is such a richness and breadth and depth of all that God has made true for us and in us, isn’t there? There’s much more for us to discover, to understand, to more fully embrace. I pray that we’ll genuinely believe that God is going to be meeting us in the pages of His Word and continuing to transform our minds, our hearts and our actions. Do you believe that He can—that He will? I pray that you do. So let’s dig in!

Expecting much,

**Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation**

### If you are new to using the Engage:

There is a short guide that will give you the “Who, Why, What, and How” of using the *Engage* study Guide.

You may access it through the Grace Community Church web site ([www.gracecommunityaz.org](http://www.gracecommunityaz.org)).

### Review from last week’s study of our overview of 1 John:

Last week, we did an overview of the book of 1 John.

We saw who the **author** was:

- John, a disciple loved by Jesus, an eye-witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus

Who the **recipients** were:

- Believers who were in danger from false teachers trying to deceive them

The **purpose** of his letter:

- To help them know they had eternal life

As well as some of the **main subjects** addressed in attempting to achieve the purpose of the letter:

- Fellowship with other believers and with God
- Sin in the life of believers
- God’s answer for sin in the world
- What light/darkness or truth/lies has to do with knowing you have eternal life
- What part abiding plays in the life of a child of God
- Love and what its presence or absence in our life indicates
- Who is born of God and how we are born of God

### Memory Verse for this week

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

I John 1:9

### Day 1 (1 John 1:1-2:2; John 1:1-5, 14-18)

Begin with prayer. Ask God to give you ears to hear and a heart that is open and desiring to know Him better and love Him more!

Read through the passage and mark every reference to *God* and to *Jesus*, (including any pronouns or synonyms). You could use a triangle to represent *God* and a cross to represent *Jesus*, but choose whatever symbol or color works best for you!

At this point in our study of 1 John, it would be good for you to create your own bookmark on which you can record the key words you mark and the color or symbol you have chosen for each word or phrase. You can use any piece of paper or a 3 x 5 card. This will help you to be consistent in your markings throughout the book of 1 John.

Once you have marked the references to *God* and *Jesus*, take a separate sheet of paper for each and begin a listing of everything the passage reveals to you about *God* and about *Jesus*. We will add to these lists throughout our study in 1 John. By the end of the study, you will have a list of God's characteristics that will be incredibly enriching to your spirit and faith!

By way of a cross reference, turn to the book of John, chapter 1 and read verses 1-5 and 14-18. Add those things that you learn about *Jesus* from these passages to your list.

Before you stop, take a few minutes to reflect on what God has shown you about Himself in these few verses. Write a short prayer to Him that expresses your heart as you meditate on these truths.

### Day 2 (1 John 1:1-2:2)

Pray first!

For the next two days you will continue to observe the passage by marking key words and listing those things that God reveals to you.

Today, read through the text several times, marking key words each time. Remember to actually read the text, not just look for certain words! The marking of these words aids your study in at least three ways: it forces you to read the passage multiple times, it slows down your reading so you can more carefully observe the details, and because you have more carefully observed the details, it helps you to more accurately interpret the meaning of the passage within the context and to apply the truth that is revealed to your life.

**If you have not already** marked these words while doing last week's Overview lesson on 1 John, mark in a distinctive color or symbol the following words and any synonyms that appear **in this week's passage**. (Be sure to add these words to your bookmark as well.)

*Fellowship, light, write, sin*

#### ***Engaging with the Greek:***

The Greek word translated "*fellowship*" is *koinonia*, and means association, community, joint participation. It implies sharing something in common.

Make a list of what you observe about *fellowship* from this passage. Use the tool of "5 W's and an H" (who, what, when, where, why, how) to help you see as many details as possible.

Again, using your markings and the “5 W’s and an H,” list what you observe about *light* from this passage.

Did you notice the contrast that is drawn between light and darkness in the passage? Make a list of what you observe about darkness from this passage.

Reading other passages of scripture that deal with the same idea or topic as are in our primary study passage, is an important part of inductive Bible study. This is how we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture and to facilitate a fuller understanding of the meaning of the text. With better understanding comes more accurate and specific application to our own lives. Read through the following cross-references on light and darkness. Compile a list of what you observe about those who “walk in the light” and those who “walk in the darkness”.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15; John 3:19-21; John 8:12; Ephesians 5:1-13**

“walk in the light”:

“walk in the darkness”:

Now it is time for some reflection. Allow God to apply His truth to your heart and life, keeping in mind all you have seen regarding God, fellowship, light and darkness. What personal application is there for you?

What is the state of your fellowship with God?

What is the state of your fellowship with other believers?

Are there things in your life that injure or threaten that fellowship? What are they?

**Day 3 – (1 John 1:1-2:2)**

Pray first!

Today you will continue with marking, observing, and allowing God to speak to you.

***Engaging with the Greek***

*Sin* is a key word and topic in the book of 1 John. The Greek word translated *sin* in this passage means to miss the mark; to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor; to do or go wrong; to wander from the law of God or violate God's law.

In our passage today, the word appears seven times. In four of the seven times it appears (1:7, 8, 9, 2:10) it is used as a noun. The other three times it is a verb (1:10, twice in 2:1)

A verb in the Greek has a "tense," which expresses the kind of action and denotes the time of the action. Greek verbs also have a "voice" which expresses the relationship of the subject to the action, and they have a "mood" which expresses the relationship of action to reality.

**1 John 1:10:** "If we say we have not sinned," the verb "*sinned*" is in the **perfect** tense, the **active** voice and the **indicative** mood.

The **perfect** tense expresses action completed in the past with results continuing in the present.

**Active** voice expresses the subject, in this case "we" produced the action.

The **indicative** mood is a mood of certainty or reality. It is used to declare a statement of fact as something which is true.

**1 John 2:1,** both verbs "*sin*" are **orist** tense, **active** voice, **subjunctive** mood.

**Aorist** tense expresses action as occurring at one point in time, past, present, or future.

**Active** voice indicates that the subject produces the action.

**Subjunctive** is a mood of probability and is used to express an action which may or should happen, but which is not necessarily true at present. It expresses conditional or uncertain actions.

These distinctions will become even more crucial for us to understand as we get to chapter three where the topic of sin is explored even more.

Using your markings from yesterday (and your "5 W's and an H"), list what you observe about *sin* from this passage.

From these passages, who sins?

Did you notice the repetition of the words, "If we say" ("if we claim" in the NIV)? What are the alternatives presented about what we "say" about sin, and where do each of those options lead us? Keep in mind that the meaning for the word "confess" is to "say the same thing."

What is God's provision and plan for you regarding your sin?

Does He have different plans from which to choose?

What do you say about your sin?

Does what you do or how you live line up with what you say?

Yesterday you were asked how your fellowship was with God and other believers. Based on what you saw yesterday about fellowship and what you have seen today about sin, what is the basis for your fellowship with God and other believers?

#### **Day 4 – (1 John 1:1-2:2)**

Pray first!

Today we will look at the passage from a little different angle. 1 John 1:5 begins, “And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you.” Before we observe the details of the “message,” read through the entire passage. Record below everything you can observe about the “messenger.” Use the “5 W’s and an H” (who, what, when, where, why, how) to help you see as many details as possible.

What words do you see used that might indicate the author is a “messenger”?

Look again at 1 John 1:3 & 4, and 2:1. What three reasons or purposes does the author give for this letter?

Now record below the main points and any sub points you observe about the “message.”

Reflect now on all God has shown you this week and ask yourself, “So what?” How does the truth that God has revealed to you this week apply to your life?

What have you seen in your study of God’s Word this week that helps you determine and know that you have eternal life?

How has God used His Word to teach, to reprove, to correct and/or train you in righteousness so that you, as a child of God, are thoroughly equipped for every good work?

## Day 5

The Core Competency we will reflect on this week is our belief regarding **Humanity**. Our creed says, “I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.”

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The four Assessment Statements listed below are ones we can use to evaluate the authenticity or existence of this belief in our own personal lives. The first statement is a truth that is certainly revealed from our passage of study this week.

1. I believe that each person possesses a sinful nature and is in need of God’s forgiveness.
2. I believe we are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value, regardless of race, religion, or gender.
3. I believe all people are loved by God; therefore I, too, should love them.
4. I believe God desires all people to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Did you see the truth of the first statement revealed in your study of scripture this week? How?

What did you see as God’s provision for forgiveness?

To whom is this provision available?

How do we appropriate this provision? What will be the results in your life according to the Scripture?

Read the quotes below.<sup>1</sup> Ponder how they relate to the truth from God’s Word that He has shown you this week.

### **Sin Compared to Poison**

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman told of a distinguished minister, Dr. Howard, from Australia who preached very strongly on the subject of sin. After the service, one of the church officers came to counsel with him in his study. “Dr. Howard,” he said, “we don’t want you to talk as openly as you do about man’s guilt and corruption, because if our boys and girls hear you discussing that subject, they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin.

“The minister took down a small bottle and showing it to the visitor said, “You see that label? It says strychnine—and underneath in bold, red letters the word ‘Poison!’ Do you know, man, what you are asking me to do? You are suggesting that I change the label. Suppose I do, and paste over it the words, ‘Essence of Peppermint’; don’t you see what might happen? Someone would use it, not knowing the danger involved, and would certainly die. So it is, too, with the matter of sin. The milder you make your label, the more dangerous you make your poison!”

### **Band-aids**

The drunk husband snuck up the stairs quietly. He looked in the bathroom mirror and bandaged the bumps and bruises he’d received in a fight earlier that night. He then proceeded to climb into bed, smiling at the thought that he’d pulled one over on his wife.

When morning came, he opened his eyes and there stood his wife. “You were drunk last night, weren’t you!”  
“No, honey.” “Well, if you weren’t, then who put all the band-aids on the bathroom mirror?”

<sup>1</sup>Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.