

A  
MESSAGE  
FROM  
GOD

LIGHT LIVING IN DARK DAYS

by

PAM GILLASPIE

## Dedicated to . . .

Dave

You always put up with me and you always encourage me to be all that God intended me to be. I love you!

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to my three classes who piloted this material with me and, as always, to Rick and Pete who keep my writing clear and my theology plumb.

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### **A Message From God: Light Living in Dark Days**

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# A MESSAGE FROM GOD

Life happens. Whether it's family or church, job or kids, sickness or health, busyness or loneliness, life is filled with unpredictable elements, with variables that lift us up one day only to come crashing down like waves over a ship's bow the next. Life happens.

In the midst of life happening, even the best intentions can run aground. Optimism says "Not me!" but we live in a broken world that both theologians and actuaries can tell you will eventually disappoint even the half-fulls among us.

Flexible inductive studies are designed with hopeful reality in mind! The main portion of the study offers flexibility enough to bend to each week's demands (and surprises!) and the *Extras!* section at the end of each lesson invites those with different learning styles—and the occasional gift of more time!—to try some new ways of remembering the lesson.

When life happens, don't drop your Bible . . . hold it more tightly and flex!

***Enjoy!***

# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Flexible Inductive Studies meet you where you are and take you as far as you want to go.

- 1. WEEKLY STUDY:** The main text guides you through the complete topic of study for the week.
- 2. FYI boxes:** For Your Information boxes provide bite-sized material to shed additional light on the topic.
- 3. ONE STEP FURTHER and other sidebar boxes:** Sidebar boxes give you the option to push yourself a little further. If you have extra time or are looking for an extra challenge, you can try one, all, or any number in between! These boxes give you the ultimate in flexibility.
- 4. DIGGING DEEPER boxes:** If you're looking to go further, Digging Deeper sections will help you sharpen your skills as you continue to mine the truths of Scripture for yourself.

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# WEEK ONE

## 1 John 1: The Message from God

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

–1 John 1:5

What would you have done if you had received a message from God as the Apostle John did? We know what he did—he wrote it down to tell everyone what it meant for him and for the entire world! It is a message he faithfully proclaimed and still today people around the world continue to declare it—that God is Light and has no darkness at all. Let's look for ourselves!

### A Letter From an Apostle

Although this letter claims no author, most scholars believe it was written by the Apostle John who also wrote the Gospel of John, the short letters of 2 and 3 John, and the book of Revelation.

**FYI:**

#### **If You're in a Class**

Work on **Week One** together on your first day of class. This will be a great way to start getting to know each other!

## USING AN INDUCTIVE APPROACH

As we study together, we'll use an inductive approach toward the Bible. With increases in connectivity and information technology today, we have access to study tools and resources unparalleled in history, but the main thing remains the main thing—the Bible itself. In studying inductively, the Bible (not people's commentaries on it!) is always the primary source for our study. In studying inductively, we'll learn to discover truth for ourselves.

Inductive study has three main components that we'll walk through step-by-step: *observation*, *interpretation*, and *application*.

**Observation** asks: *What does the text say?*

**Interpretation** asks: *What does the text mean?*

**Application** asks: *How can I apply this truth in my life?*

Together they lead to transformation by the Spirit through the Word.

MARKING the text of Scripture is one tool that will help us to observe the text well. We identify key words by reading carefully, then we mark them. Key words are typically repeated and critical to understanding the meaning of the text. When we identify key words, we're beginning to see what is going on in the text, what the author's main point is. As we mark key words, we ASK the 5W and H questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?*).

To practice this basic skill and to help us key in on a major theme of John's letter, let's read through 1 John and MARK every occurrence of the word *know* by drawing a simple box around the word like this: know

## OVERVIEW

### 1 John 1

- 1 *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—*
- 2 *and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—*
- 3 *what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

- 4 *These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*
- 5 *This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*
- 6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;*
- 7 *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself 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 that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.*
- 9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- 10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

## **1 John 2**

- 1 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*
- 2 *and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*
- 3 *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.*
- 4 *The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;*
- 5 *but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:*
- 6 *the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*
- 7 *Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.*
- 8 *On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.*
- 9 *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.*

- 10 *The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*
- 11 *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*
- 12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.*
- 13 *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.*
- 14 *I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*
- 15 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- 16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*
- 17 *The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*
- 18 *Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.*
- 19 *They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*
- 20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.*
- 21 *I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.*
- 22 *Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.*
- 23 *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.*

- 24 *As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*
- 25 *This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.*
- 26 *These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.*
- 27 *As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*
- 28 *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.*
- 29 *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

**1 John 3**

- 1 *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*
- 2 *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*
- 3 *And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*
- 4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*
- 5 *You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.*
- 6 *No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.*
- 7 *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;*
- 8 *the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

- 9 *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
- 10 *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*
- 11 *For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;*
- 12 *not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.*
- 13 *Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.*
- 14 *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.*
- 15 *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*
- 16 *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
- 17 *But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*
- 18 *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*
- 19 *We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him*
- 20 *in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.*
- 21 *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;*
- 22 *and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*
- 23 *This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*
- 24 *The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

**1 John 4**

- 1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*
- 2 *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;*
- 3 *and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*
- 4 *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- 5 *They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.*
- 6 *We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*
- 7 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*
- 8 *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*
- 9 *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*
- 10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
- 11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*
- 12 *No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.*
- 13 *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*
- 14 *We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*
- 15 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
- 16 *We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

- 17 *By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.*
- 18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*
- 19 *We love, because He first loved us.*
- 20 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*
- 21 *And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

### **1 John 5**

- 1 *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*
- 2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.*
- 3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*
- 4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
- 5 *Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- 6 *This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*
- 7 *For there are three that testify:*
- 8 *the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.*
- 9 *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.*
- 10 *The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.*
- 11 *And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*

- 12 *He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*
- 13 *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
- 14 *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*
- 15 *And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*
- 16 *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.*
- 17 *All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.*
- 18 *We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.*
- 19 *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*
- 20 *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
- 21 *Little children, guard yourselves from idols.*

## **A CLOSER LOOK AT 1 JOHN 1**

Now that we've quickly overviewed the letter, let's go back to look at it slowly, chapter by chapter, section by section.

### **INDUCTIVE FOCUS:**

#### **Context**

Although we'll sometimes focus on portions of chapters or books of the Bible, it is always a good idea to read entire sections if you have the time. Reading the context—the material around what you're studying—will typically help you gain quicker and better understanding. This is why we're taking time to read John's entire letter prior to delving into individual sections of the text.

## INDUCTIVE FOCUS:

### **Asking Questions of the Entire Letter**

One of the most effective ways to understand the Bible, or any text you're engaging for that matter, is to read it slowly and carefully and then ask the basic investigative questions: *Who? What? When? Where? Why?* and *How?* Having read 1 John, see how you do on the following questions. We'll stay pretty basic for now. Remember, you can always ask different types of questions and many questions will involve asking follow-ups. Go back and re-read if you need to. As you continue to study, you'll find that asking these type questions as you read will become second nature to you if it isn't already.

***Who's writing? Who is being written to?***

***What is the author writing about?***

***What can the readers "know" and how can they know it?***

*(Look back at what you've marked and make a simple list to help you answer.)*

***Why is the author writing?***

**1 John 1:1-4****OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE**

**READ** 1 John 1:1-4 and **MARK** every occurrence of the repeated word *what*.

**1 John 1:1-4**

- 1 *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—*
- 2 *and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—*
- 3 *what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*
- 4 *These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

Look back at all of the “*what*”s you marked in the text and make a short list to see if you can determine what John is getting at! Record the verse where you find the information. Here are a couple to get you started.

“What”

- “from the beginning” (v. 1)
- heard, seen, and touched (v. 1)

Based on your list, what or who do you think John is talking about?  
Explain your answer.

What does John say specifically about how long “the Word of Life” has existed and will exist? What implications does this have?

Is it important that John and others heard, saw, and touched it? From the rest of the Bible, do you think see, hear, and touch are physical actions?

Why was John so eager to proclaim what he had seen, heard, and touched? (Study the “so that” statements!)

## A Look at the Gospel of John

In order to understand a little more about John’s first letter, let’s spend some time looking at another of his writings that centered on Jesus. Here we’ll find out more about the Word of Life that was from the beginning!

# INDUCTIVE FOCUS:

## Cross-Referencing

Cross-referencing simply means comparing what the Bible says about a topic in different places. In 1 John, the Apostle John talks about “the Word of Life” to readers who immediately knew who he was referring to. In order for us to understand this more clearly, we can see more of his description of “the Word” in the prologue to his Gospel.

Gospel simply means “good news.” So the Gospel of John is John’s account of the good news about Jesus Christ.

This is the reason that we are taking a brief trip to look at a portion of the first chapter of the Gospel of John. We’ll be back to John’s letter soon!

**OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE**

**READ** John 1:1-5 and **MARK** references to *the Word* including synonyms and pronouns. (Don't miss the qualities *life* and *light*.)

- 1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- 2 *He was in the beginning with God.*
- 3 *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*
- 4 *In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*
- 5 *The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

Make a short list of everything new you learned about the Word from these verses.

Again, who is “the Word” that John talks about in his Gospel and First Epistle? How long has the Word been around?

**OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE**

**READ** John 1:9-14, 17-18 and again **MARK** references to *the Word* including characteristics, synonyms (*the true Light, the only begotten, Jesus Christ*) and pronouns (*He, His, Him*).

- 9 *There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.*

- 10 *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*
- 11 *He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*
- 12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,*
- 13 *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- 14 *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- 17 *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*
- 18 *No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

## **DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

What is the Word's relationship to the world?

What did the Word give to those who received Him? What does this say about the Word's authority?

What did the Word do according to verse 14? What happened as a result?

According to verse 17, who is the Word?

Considering verse 18, why was it so important for Jesus to come to earth as a man and live among us? What are we able to learn from this?

## **1 John 1:5-10**

As we get back to John's letter, he begins to tell his readers about "the message."

### **OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE**

**READ** 1 John 1:5-10 and **MARK** references to *sin*.

- 5 *This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*
- 6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;*
- 7 *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself 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 that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.*
- 9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- 10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

What is “the message” and who is it from?

How does this message compare with the one in John 1:9-14?

What does John say about people who say they know God but walk in the darkness?

According to the text, is there anyone who hasn't sinned?

**FYI:****What is “Fellowship”?**

Perhaps the most recognizable use of the word “fellowship” in modern culture is found in the title of J.R.R. Tolkien's, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the first volume of his epic work, *The Lord of the Rings*. In the book a group of adventurous souls band together for a common mission to destroy a ring that threatens their existence.

From the Greek word *koinos* (common), their fellowship (*koinonia*) is the common purpose of their mission. They all actively participate in this mission. In John's letter, we see that as people come to know God and have fellowship with Him they relate to one another based on their relationship with God.

Knowing God is not just assenting to a proper set of facts; it is being in relationship with Him through Jesus and in turn with one another . . . but you can't live what you don't know!

According to John, how do people walk in the light? How are their sins cleansed?

What benefits are realized by those who walk in the light?

When people claim they have not sinned, what are they saying about God? What does the statement say about them?

Why do you think people choose to deceive themselves?

Which person in the text best describes you—are you walking in the light or in the darkness? Have you confessed your sins and received the cleansing and forgiveness God offers in Jesus? Explain.

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

## The Good News of Salvation by Grace through Faith in Jesus

John writes his letter assuming his readers know the basics of the Gospel. By showing them "before" and "after" snapshots of human lives, he gives his readers a simple diagnostic for knowing if they are truly in a saving relationship with Jesus and have been forgiven and cleansed from the sin that separated them from God.

The Bible is a big book but the core message is man's separation from God and God's grace making man's restoration possible. Here are the basic points (along with a few questions!) to keep in mind as we work our way through 1 John.

### **Romans 3:23**

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

According to this text, is anyone "good enough" for God? What position does that put people in? Explain.

### **Romans 6:23**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

According to this text, what do people earn when they sin?

What is God's free gift and where is it found?

**Romans 5:8**

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

According to this text, when and how did God demonstrate His love toward us? What condition were we in?

Based on Romans 6:23, why did Christ die?

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

According to this text, what are people saved by and through?

What are people not saved by? Why?

If we could save ourselves, how would we likely behave?

## **@THE END OF THE DAY . . .**

Take a couple of minutes to review what you've learned this week and to consider if you've dragged any presuppositions into your study. We all have them and it's important for us to acknowledge them as we start out. What views are you bringing to the text that may color your opinions or discoveries? Do you believe the Bible is God's Word? Do you believe it is binding on your life? Do you have doubts about all or part of it? What questions do you need answered? Record below anything that's swirling around in your mind and, remember, God can handle your questions and through His Word He "has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him" (2 Peter 1:3).

Now jot down your biggest application point from this week of study as well as your biggest remaining questions.

# EXTRA

MEMORIZE | TWEET | POST | DRAW | HASHTAG | ENCODE | REMEMBER

We can go over content and application together. We can observe, interpret, and apply the text. Goodness, I could give quizzes and tests to help you remember (of course, I won't!), but often what will help you remember best is thinking through on your own how you learn best. The truth doesn't change, but we learn different ways.

Memorizing is a great tool for me because it causes me to see more closely how a writer is framing an argument. When I'm focusing on recall, I'm more apt to see repeated words and patterns—it's just how my brain works!

You may recall a text best by making a simple outline of it . . . or sketching what you saw in it. If you have extra time this week, do what you need to so that you'll remember the basic content of 1 John 1. Here are some ideas:

## Memorize Key Verses

1 John 1:5

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

1 John 1:9

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

Got another? Write it down . . .

## Create a Simple Outline

1 John 1:1-4 talks about . . .

1 John 1:5-10 talks about . . .

## “Tweet” It

Brevity can make us think more accurately. See if you can summarize the message of 1 John 1 in 140 characters or less.

## #Hashtag It

Make a hashtag for 1 John 1.

#

## Memorize 1 John 1

Here are some of the patterns/repetitions I see. See what else you can find that helps *you* remember!

### ***Significant patterns in verses 1-4***

*Statements about the Word of Life using “what” . . .*

WHAT was from the beginning

WHAT we have heard

WHAT we have seen with our eyes

WHAT we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the Word of Life

WHAT we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also

### ***Significant patterns in verses 5-10***

*“If we” statements . . .*

If we say that we have fellowship with Him

If we say that we have no sin

If we confess our sins

If we say that we have not sinned

If you’re thinking about memorizing any verses or passages, check out **Scripture typer.com** . . . desktop or app! I highly recommend this software that helps you memorize and keeps you honest by testing you on an ongoing basis!!