

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

September 20, 2015

### **Walk in the Light in Fellowship**

Pastor Mike O'Connor

#### **Scripture—1 John 1:1-2:2**

*[1:1] That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—[2] the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—[3] that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. [4] And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

*[5] This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he 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 we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

*[2:1] My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. [2] He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

#### **Main Idea—Biblical Fellowship is Walking in the Light Authentically**

Fellowship is: *koinōnia*: translated variously as: fellowship, partnership, participation, sharing, contribution

#### **Testing the Reality of Our Fellowship:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ My fellowship is both, not just horizontal and not just vertical.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My fellowship is expansive, not exclusive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My fellowship is about works, not just words
- \_\_\_\_\_ My fellowship is a place of reality, not pretending

When "guilty" is the just verdict—Jesus is both our Advocate with the Father and our propitiation for sin.

#### **Application—**

- What was new or newly re-emphasized in this message?
- The four tests of genuine fellowship: what did your evaluation look like?
- How did this affirm your participation in a small group?
- Is there anything you believe you should change so that your group experience is all it could be?

## Tips for a Great First Meeting

(excerpted from Mark Howell on ChurchLeaders.com)

**Make it a point** to call all of your members the week before your first meeting. Be enthusiastic when you call. Try to actually speak to them when you call, not just leave a voicemail.

**Ask everyone to bring something for refreshments.** This cements attendance! They're likely to show up if you're depending on them.

**Start your group with an informal "meet and greet" session.** The agenda for the first meeting is all about making members feel comfortable with the new members of the group.

**Have nametags and markers by the door.** Especially important if you have new people. It helps everyone to remember names.

**Get to know each other in a less formal way.** Here are a few questions:

- Would you describe yourself as an extrovert or an introvert?
- What motivated you to sign up for this group?
- What scares you (or makes you uncomfortable) about being in a group?

**This is a great time to talk over expectations.** Talk about attendance, who do they contact if they're going to miss, hosting, childcare, confidentiality. Also, any materials they might need, if you're doing a book study.

**Pray to close the meeting.** Make it simple. Ask "Is there anything we can be praying for you today?". Write down prayer requests.

**Follow Up with all those who attend.** This can be email, phone, or after church on Sunday. If they haven't officially signed up for your group, invite them a second time to your meeting.

