

# *In His Steps*

**A Workbook for Memorizing**

## **Chapter 1**

**of**

## **John's First Epistle**

by

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# Introduction

You are about to start a wonderful adventure! Memorizing God's Word is an awesome privilege. God doesn't talk to us out loud very much any more, but He has given us a book in which He has written everything that's important for us to know. So when you read or memorize the Bible, always remember that it isn't like any other book - it is the *all-powerful, never failing Word of God*. It is God speaking to you.

As you memorize, always remember that you have a wonderful, powerful God who loves you more even than your own mom or dad. He has given you this book so you can learn about Him. He wants you to know how to be happy in this world He has made for you, and He wants to warn you about things that will hurt you so you can avoid them. When you memorize Scripture you'll always have God's very words with you in your heart and in your mind so He can always speak to you no matter where you are and no matter what happens.

The book of I John was written by the Apostle John, one of Jesus' favorite disciples. John and his brother James were fishermen until they met Jesus, then they left their father and their fishing boats and became one of His disciples. They traveled with Jesus and saw Him perform all those wonderful miracles like making lame men walk and blind men see. They were even there when Jesus brought dead people back to life. They saw Jesus laugh and play with kids and they saw Him talk to large crowds of people.

When Jesus died on the cross, James and John were there, too. They saw the soldiers pound the nails into His hands and they saw Jesus writhe in pain when He died on the cross. When He died, they didn't think they would ever see Jesus alive again but after He was raised from the dead, Jesus visited them. They actually saw Him and even touched Him - after He came back to life. Then later, James and John stood by watching - looking up into the sky - when Jesus went right up into the clouds and into heaven.

These things all happened when John was a young man. He lived for many years after this, telling people about Jesus. Many Bible students think the book of I John was written when John was an old man, before he was put in prison on an island where he died.

I John is called the "Epistle" of First John. "Epistle" is another word for "letter". Today we would probably say it was "John's First Letter". There are three of John's letters in the Bible. They are easy to remember - I John (First John) is the first one. Then there is II John (Second John) and III John (Third John.) John also wrote the "Gospel of John" and "The Revelation". The Gospel of John is the fourth book in the New Testament and tells about Jesus' life when He lived on this earth. "The Revelation" is the last book in the Bible and is mostly about things that God says will happen in the future.

It will be exciting for you to memorize a chapter written by someone who was good friends with Jesus. Before you start memorizing each verse be sure to read the explanation that goes with it. Remember - **I John isn't just any book, it is part of God's Holy Word and in each verse the Lord is saying something special - to you.** Always remember that God is the One who told John what to write. So as you say the verses over and over again, pray that the Lord will help you to understand what He is saying to you.

## Step #1

***I John 1:1 —That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched— this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.***

The Bible is not like other books that we can just read and know what they mean. The Lord hides His truths in a lot of different ways. Studying His Word is kind of like looking for buried treasure. To understand this very first verse of I John, it will help us to look at the beginning of one of John's other books. In the Gospel of John 1:1, he writes, “*In the ‘beginning’ was the **Word** . . .*” Who do you think the “Word” might be? Look at the rest of the verse and see if you can tell, “. . . *and the ‘Word’ was with God, and the ‘Word’ was God*”.

Who existed before the beginning of everything? Who was here before the world was created? This verse says the “Word” existed even then. It says that the “Word” was with God and that He was God. Who do you think this is? John 1:14 says: “*The ‘Word’ became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*”

The “Word” was God who became a man. I’m sure by now you know that John is talking about Jesus. Jesus was not only here before the beginning of the world, John 1:3 tells us that He is the One who created it. So Jesus is the One who was “from the beginning” mentioned in I John 1:1. When John wrote “*That which was from the beginning. . .*”, he was talking about Jesus.

Because this is the very first verse of the book, it is a little longer than some, and the comments are longer too. I know you are anxious to get started memorizing so now that you know who John is writing about in this first verse, this might be a good time to start. (*When you think you know this first verse, say it to one of your parents and then fill in the blanks for the Small, Medium and Large Steps. Then we will finish the commentary and you can do the GIANT Step before the review.*)

### Small Step

1:1 - \_\_\_\_\_ which was from the beginning , which we have \_\_\_\_\_ , which we have \_\_\_\_\_ with our \_\_\_\_\_ , which we have \_\_\_\_\_ at and \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ — this we proclaim concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ life. (Turn the page for the Medium Step.)

## Medium Step

1:1 - \_\_\_\_\_ which was from \_\_\_\_\_ beginning,  
\_\_\_\_\_ heard, \_\_\_\_\_ have  
seen \_\_\_\_\_ eyes , \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ at and \_\_\_\_\_ hands have \_\_\_\_\_  
— this \_\_\_\_\_

**Word** \_\_\_\_\_ . (When you have completed this step cover it up with a sheet of paper before doing the Big Step. As you go along, always cover up each step when you have completed it so you won't be tempted to just look back and copy the answers. This will always be a temptation if you don't cover them up. If you have trouble with a word, be sure to try to figure it out first before you check the answer.)

## Big Step

1:1 - \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, which \_\_\_\_\_,  
which \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_,  
which \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ — this \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Word \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

(Now that you know verse 1, say it often to yourself and out loud and think about it as you read the rest of these comments.) Remember John was one of Jesus' disciples and a very special friend of His. He knew that Jesus lived and loved and taught and healed. John emphasizes in this verse that he and his friends had actually seen Jesus with their own eyes and they had heard Him teach. They hadn't just heard "about" him, they knew Him, personally. John says they "touched" Him. Perhaps John was talking here about the time Jesus told his disciples to touch Him after He had risen from the dead. He wanted them to see that He was real. Some of them even touched the scars in His hands and feet where the nails were hammered in. (You can read about this in Luke 24:39.)

In John 14:6, Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life". Jesus, Himself, said He was the "**life**". Now we know that Jesus is the "**Word**" and He is the "**Life**". So John "proclaims" in this first verse of I John that Jesus is the "**Word of life**". To "proclaim" means to "tell everyone". John was obviously excited about the news he had to tell and he wanted to

shout it out to everyone. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus, the "**Word of life**".

By using this name, "Word of life" - John is telling us that it is through Jesus, the "Word", that our sins can be washed away so we can have "life" that lasts for ever or "eternal" life. We are alive on this earth, right now, aren't we? But these bodies won't last forever. One day our time here will end because we are really only here for a few years. Jesus gives us the "everlasting" kind of life - the kind that never ends. When we accept Him as our Savior, Jesus takes away our sin so that when our life on this earth is finished He will take us home to Heaven to be with Him forever.

Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your heart and wash away your sins so you can have "everlasting" life? Jesus is a perfect gentleman and He will only come into your heart if you invite Him. So if you have never done this, you may want to do it - right now. Just say quietly in your heart, "Jesus, please come into my heart and wash away all my sins so that when my life here is finished, I can come to heaven and live with you forever."

Now John has told us a lot of things in verse one, hasn't he? We learned that:

1. Jesus was here from the beginning - before anything else existed.
2. The apostle John, the one who wrote this book, knew Jesus personally. He and others heard Jesus teach and saw Him perform miracles.
3. They had actually touched Jesus and knew that He was a real person.
4. Jesus is the "Word of life" which means He is God who created us and we can have everlasting life through Him.
5. John is excited about being able to tell us what he learned from Jesus.

Now it's time to do the **GIANT** Step. Do you think you can write out all of verse one without any mistakes?

## Giant Step

1:1 - That \_\_\_\_\_

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## Review - I John 1:1

1. On a separate sheet of paper, write out I John 1:1 again from memory without using any helps.

In questions that have more than one choice, mark **each** answer - either "T" for "true", if it is correct - or "F" for "false", if it is incorrect. There may be more than one right answer and/or more than one wrong answer, so check them all carefully. This is not just for this one review, but for all of the reviews in this workbook. So here we go - mark ALL answers either "T" or "F" in the spaces beside them.

2. Who wrote the Epistle of John?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) We don't really know who wrote the book of I John.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) The apostle John wrote the book of I John.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) The apostle Paul wrote the book of I John.

3. Who is the "Word of life"?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) "The Word of Life" is John.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) We don't really know what "the Word of Life" means. Maybe we'll find out later in the book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) "The Word of Life" is Jesus our Lord.

4. What does the word "beginning" refer to as used in verse 1?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) In I John 1:1 the word "beginning" means the "beginning" of John's life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) In I John 1:1 the word "beginning" means the "beginning" of the Book of I John.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) In I John 1:1 the word "beginning" means that Jesus was here before the "beginning" of everything. In fact, He created the world and everything in it.

5. Why was John so excited about writing the book of I John?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) John was excited about writing the book of I John because He knew Jesus. He had heard Him teach. He had seen Him do miracles and had even seen Jesus after He arose from the dead. John wanted to tell everyone about his wonderful Savior and Lord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) John knew that it was only through Jesus that we could have "eternal life" and he wanted everyone to know this wonderful news.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) John loved to tell stories and if anyone would listen to him he would spin long tales to keep them entertained. So he just wrote the book of I John because he thought it was a good story.

6. John wrote the book of I John so that you and I would be able to learn about the things that he, himself, had learned from Jesus. True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_

## Step #2

***I John 1:2 — The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.***

This verse says that "*The LIFE appeared*". "Appear" means to come into view so it can be seen. We've already learned, haven't we, that "eternal" means to last forever? John says the "eternal life" lived with God, the Father in heaven before coming to this earth. Who is He talking about? It is Jesus, who came from heaven and "appeared" as a man in this world, isn't it? John and his friends knew Him. They knew that He was God, born as a man. To "testify" means to tell about something you have seen or experienced and know to be true. To "proclaim", as we said in the first verse, means to tell everyone who will listen. John is anxious for everyone to know that Jesus, the "eternal" God, left His Father in heaven to become a man and it is through Him that we can have "eternal" life. So he mentions it again.

*(After you have memorized this verse, say I John 1:1 and 2, to one of your parents before completing the Steps below. You will enjoy saying the scripture over many times as you build new verses on the ones you have learned. Repeating what you have learned often, to yourself and out loud, will help to fix it in your mind so it will not easily be forgotten.)*

### Small Step

1:2 - The \_\_\_\_\_ appeared; we have \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ testify to it, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ to you the \_\_\_\_\_ life, \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ and has appeared to \_\_\_\_\_. (Cover up this Step with a sheet of paper before doing the Medium Step below so you won't be tempted to look back at these answers.)

### Medium Step

1:2 - \_\_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ seen \_\_\_\_\_ testify \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ eternal \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ Father and \_\_\_\_\_ .

(Turn the page for the Big Step.)

## Big Step

1:2 - The \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ have  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ , and  
\_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_, which \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. (Cover up this Step before doing the Giant Step below, so you won't be tempted to look back at these answers.)

## Giant Step

1:2 - The \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Review - I John 1:2

1. On a separate sheet of paper write out I John 1:1-2 from memory.
2. What did John mean in this verse when he said "the life appeared"? (T or F)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) When John said the life "appeared", he meant that Jesus, the Word of life left His Father in heaven to "appear" on this earth as a man.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) When John said the life "appeared", he meant that an angel "appeared" out of heaven to tell us about God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) John knew that an important person had "appeared", but he wasn't sure who it was.
3. How did John know that Jesus "appeared" on this earth as a man? (T or F)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) John could "testify" that Jesus "appeared" as a man because he had seen Jesus himself, heard Him speak and even touched Him.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) John could "testify" that Jesus was God who "appeared" as a man because he had read about him in the newspapers.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) John could "testify" that Jesus "appeared on this earth as a man because he knew someone who had told him about Jesus.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d) John really didn't know for sure that Jesus "appeared" as a man, he just thought he should say it because it sounded good.

## Step #3

***1 John 1:3 — We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.***

John tells us again in this verse that he is writing about Someone that he, himself, knew and talked with. He wants to be sure we understand that Jesus was a real person who actually lived and He was not just a fantasy. To have "fellowship" with someone is to be special friends with them. John tells us that he and his friends had "fellowship" with God the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And he wants us to enjoy this same special friendship with Them too. He says that when we belong to God the Father, through Jesus, we have fellowship with Them, and we can have this same special friendship with everyone else in God's family. It's not like just being best friends with a neighbor who doesn't know Jesus. When Jesus is your Savior and Friend, God the Father is your Friend too - as well as all the other Christians in the whole world.

*(When you have memorized this verse, be sure to say verses 1, 2 and 3 to one of your parents before starting on this Step.)*

### Small Step

1:3 - We proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ you what we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, so that you also \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship \_\_\_\_\_. And \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship is with \_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. (Cover up this Step before doing the Medium Step below.)

### Medium Step

1:3 - \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ seen and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ may have \_\_\_\_\_ us. \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_\_ Son, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. (Turn page for the Big Step.)

## **Big Step**

1:3 - We \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ seen \_\_\_\_\_, so \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. And our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . (Cover up this Step before doing the Giant  
Step below so you won't be tempted to look back at these answers.)

## **Giant Step**

1:3 - We \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Review - I John 1:3**

1. On a separate sheet of paper, write out I John 1:1—3 from memory.
2. What is repeated in each of the first three verses of this book? (T or F)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) John repeats that he, himself, talked with Jesus when He was here on this earth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) John repeats that he, himself, had seen Jesus with his own eyes when He was here on this earth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) John repeats that He knew someone who knew Jesus.
3. Which of these statements are true and which are false?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) When we know Jesus as our Savior, we have a special friendship with God the Father.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) When we know Jesus as our Savior, we have a special friendship with other Christians.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) When we know Jesus as our Savior, we should be careful not to make friends with other Christians.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d) When we know Jesus as our Savior, we know that when we leave this earth we will live with Him forever in heaven.

## Step #4

### ***1 John 1:4 — We write this to make our joy complete.***

Some people think "joy" means "happiness". Although "joy" and "happiness" are similar, they are not the same thing. We are usually "happy" when good things happen to us like - getting a new bicycle - or having a birthday party - or going on a fun trip. But "happiness" sometimes doesn't last too long. We might be happy today because good things are happening, but sad tomorrow if things don't go so well.

Anyone can be "happy" when good things are happening, but "joy" is something that only the Lord can give. Only those who have Jesus in their heart can know real "**joy**". Joy is that "warm", "safe" feeling that the Lord gives us deep down in our heart - no matter what happens. **Happiness** comes from outside things. **Joy** bubbles up from within. **Happiness** comes and goes as good or bad things happen to us. **Joy** is **always** there because we know deep down that the Lord is always with us and He will take care of us no matter what happens.

John says that sharing Jesus in this letter is making his "joy" complete. He must have had a wonderful joy bubbling up inside when he shared about the Lord Jesus with others. And as he told them about the fellowship they could have not only with Jesus - but also with His heavenly Father - and with other Christians.

Do you know what it is to have the joy of sharing Jesus with someone else? If you don't, then maybe now is a good time to start praying about this. John tells us that it is really a great way to go. Maybe you have a friend or neighbor who doesn't know Jesus. The first thing to do if you want to know this joy is to start praying for someone that you know needs Jesus. Ask God to show you when and how to talk with them about Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to explain to them about how much Jesus loves them. And how He died for their sins, just like He died for yours. Be sure to pray about this because it is not something we should try to do on our own. It is God's work. It is important for Him to show us the right time and to give us the right words. *(When you have memorized this verse, say verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 to your parents before starting on this Small Step.)*

#### Small Step

1:4 - We \_\_\_\_\_ this to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_  
complete . (Cover up this Step before doing the Big Step below so you won't be tempted to look back at the answers.)

#### Big Step

1:4 - \_\_\_\_\_ make \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

# Giant Step

1:4 - We \_\_\_\_\_

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## Review- I John 1:1—4

1. Say I John 1:1 to yourself then write out I John 1:2—4 from memory.

Mark all of the answers below either "T" for true or "F" for false.

2. What does the word "appear" mean?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) When someone "appears", they are hidden from view.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) When someone "appears", they are like a mirage, we only think they're there but they really aren't.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) When someone "appears", they come into full view so everyone can see them.

3. Why did John write the book of I John?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) John wrote the book of I John because he had always wanted to write a book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) John wrote the book of I John because he wanted others to know how smart he was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) John wrote the book of I John because it gave him great joy to tell others about Jesus and His teachings.

4. Where did John learn about Jesus?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) John learned about Jesus from people who knew Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) John learned about Jesus by reading a book about His life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) John knew Jesus, himself. He had seen Him with his own eyes, talked with Him, and had actually listened to Him teach.

5. What does it mean to "testify" to something?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) When we "testify" we tell about something we have heard from someone who tells the truth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) When we "testify" we tell about something we think is true.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) When we testify we are expected to tell the truth about something we have seen ourselves, or something that has happened to us personally.

6. Which of these statements are True and which are False?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) When we know Jesus as our Savior and special friend, God the Father is also our special friend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) When we know Jesus as our Savior and special friend, everyone else in the whole world is our special friend too.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) When we know Jesus as our Savior and special friend, all of God's family in the whole world are our special friends.

## Step #5

***I John 1:5 — This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***

In verses 1—4 John tells us again and again about his friendship with Jesus. He tells us that Jesus is the "Word of Life" and he is excited about being able to share His teachings with others. Now in verse 5 John starts telling us what it was that Jesus actually taught them when He was here on earth. John makes it plain that the things he is about to write in this book are the teachings that John, and the other disciples, heard right from Jesus, Himself. John wrote them in this book so you and I could read them for ourselves and even memorize them so we won't ever forget them.

The very first thing John tells us is - "***God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all . . .***" It's hard for us to understand what this "light" really is, isn't it? But maybe we will get some help if we look in one of John's other books. In John 3:19 Jesus said " . . . *Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil*". "Evil" means "wicked" or "sinful". Jesus said that people who do evil things would rather be in the dark than in the light. They may not want anyone else to see what they are doing either because it is against the law, or because they are ashamed of it. (Have you ever noticed how many crimes are committed in the dark?) They probably think the darkness will keep it a secret. Darkness and sin are good friends. But there is One who always sees everything, isn't there? Whether anyone else sees it or not, our Lord is there and we know He sees even in the dark.

What is the opposite of "darkness"? It's "light", isn't it? Light chases away darkness. You can make darkness by keeping out light, but there's no way to get rid of darkness without light. When the sun comes up, the darkness of night disappears. When the sun goes down, darkness comes back. When you turn on a light in a dark room, the darkness disappears. Turn it off and the darkness comes back. Where there is no light, we have darkness. But if there is light, there can't be any darkness. It is impossible for both darkness and light to be in the same place at the same time.

John says, "***God is light***". Just as darkness is the friend of sin, light is the friend of righteousness. God is perfect light and there is nothing that He is and nothing that He does that He wants to hide. On the contrary, God wants us to learn everything about Him that we can. He is always perfect - always loving - always doing what is right. God not only loves the light, we are told He **is** light - the complete opposite of darkness. Notice John says that in God "***there is no darkness, at all***". Where light is shining, there is not even a little piece of darkness. It is impossible for there to be even the slightest bit of darkness in God because He is perfect light. (Be sure to say verses 1—5 to one of your parents before starting on the Steps.)

**Small Step**

1:5 - \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ have  
\_\_\_\_\_ from him \_\_\_\_\_ to you:  
\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ there \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ at all.

(Cover up this Step before doing the Medium Step below. Then cover up the Small and Medium Steps before doing the Giant Step and cover up the Small, Medium and Big Steps before doing to the Giant. It will always be a temptation to look back at the answers if you don't cover them up.)

**Medium Step**

1:5 - This is \_\_\_\_\_ message \_\_\_\_\_ heard  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to you: God  
\_\_\_\_\_ light ; in him \_\_\_\_\_ is no  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Big Step**

1:5 - This \_\_\_\_\_ have  
\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ ; in \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Giant Step**

1:5 - This \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Review I John 1:5:**

- 1. Say I John 1:1—2 to yourself and write out verses 3, 4 and 5 from memory.
- 2. What is the very first thing that John tells us that he learned from Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Step #6

***I John 1:6 — If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.***

We learned in the last verse that God is light and there is no darkness **at all** in Him. So if someone is walking with the Lord and doing what pleases Him, he is "walking in the light". But anyone who is doing evil likes to stay away from God because he doesn't like the light. He likes to hide in the darkness.

We will either walk in the light with the Lord, or walk in the dark away from Him. But this verse is saying we can't do both at the same time. If we keep doing things we know are wrong, we are not walking in the light. And if we try to hide things we are ashamed of in the dark but try to make everyone think we are good friends with God, God says we are liars. We are saying one thing and doing another.

When we are good friends with God and are walking in the light, we don't keep on doing things we know are wrong. We are open and honest about everything. Although there may be times when we do things that are not right, we are miserable when this happens because sin breaks our "fellowship" with God. Our sin separates us from God. When we sin, we cannot stand the light of His presence. Sometimes we might think we can keep our sin hidden by not telling anyone. But our Lord sees everything doesn't He?

When someone is walking in the light, and he does something that he knows is wrong - he is sorry. He does not try to hide it and keep it in the dark. Right away he asks the Lord to forgive him and help him not to do it again. He makes sure everything he does is in the light where it can be clearly seen. Remember darkness cannot exist where there is light. That is why sin cannot stand the light of God's presence. When we are friends with God, we have His bright light shining into our life and anytime we sin, it can be clearly seen. It is impossible to hide it. God knows everything and we can never hide anything from him. So if we sin, we should always immediately admit it to God and ask Him to forgive us, then our fellowship with Him will not be broken. *(When you have memorized this verse, say I John 1:1—6 to one of your parents before starting on the Steps.)*

### **Small Step**

1:6 - If we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with \_\_\_\_\_  
yet \_\_\_\_\_ in the darkness, we \_\_\_\_\_ and do not  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(Turn the page for the Medium Step.)

## Medium Step

1:6 - If \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ walk \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ darkness, we \_\_\_\_\_ not  
\_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_. (Cover up this Step before doing the Big Step  
below, and cover up the Medium and Big Step before doing the Giant Step so you won't be tempted to look back  
at these answers.)

## Big Step

1:6 - \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ walk in  
\_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ live \_\_\_\_\_ truth.

## Giant Step

1:6 - If \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Review - I John 1:6

1. Say I John 1:1—3 to yourself and then write out verses 4—6 from memory.
2. According to verse 6, if we say we are good friends with God and yet keep on doing what we know is wrong, we are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What does it mean to walk in the light? (T or F)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) When we walk in the light we are open and honest about everything in our lives, and don't try to hide anything from our Lord.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) When we walk in the light we try to keep anything we do that's wrong, as a secret, so everyone will think we are good Christians.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) When we walk in the light we confess our sin to God right away so our fellowship with him won't be broken.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d) When we walk in the light we are not living by the truth.
4. Some people like the dark because they don't want anyone to see what they are doing. True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_

## Step #7

***1 John 1:7 - 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, purifies us from all sin.***

In these last few verses we have been talking about the difference between walking in the light and walking in the dark. We learned that it is impossible for us to walk in the dark and walk in the light at the same time, didn't we? Here John talks a little more about what it is to "walk in the light". Jesus said in John 8:12, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" So to walk "in the light" is to walk with Jesus. As we said, it is as if we are walking with a bright light shining on us. And that's okay because when we walk in the light there is nothing we want to hide. When we walk in the light we tell God everything and don't try to hide anything from Him or keep it a secret. We try to live so that we will never be ashamed of our actions.

So, as we have said, even if we do something wrong, we won't try to hide it. And if we do "blow" it, this verse is quick to tell us ". . . *the blood of Jesus (God's) Son, purifies us from all sin.*" "Purify" means to wash clean from anything that is dirty, doesn't it? So when we walk in the light, we are quick to take our sin to Jesus so He can purify us - with His blood. This isn't easy for us to understand but it means that Jesus died in our place. It is because Jesus shed His blood on the cross and took our punishment on Himself that He can wash us clean from sin. So when we bring our sin to Him, He washes us as clean as if we hadn't messed up in the first place. The problem is not "if" we sin, because we all sin, don't we? There is only a problem if we try to hide our sin and don't bring it to the light so the Lord Jesus can wash us clean again.

So if we are not trying to be sneaky about anything, then we will have good fellowship with our Lord and with other Christians. All of us, as God's children, will be working together because we all want to do what is right and help each other to walk in the light. (*Be sure to say verses 1—7 to one of your parents before starting on this Step.*)

### Small Step

1:7 - But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the light, as he \_\_\_\_\_  
the light, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one  
\_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,  
his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

## Medium Step

1:7 - But \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ light, as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, we have  
\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ another, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_, purifies  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **sin**. (Cover up this step before doing the Big Step below  
and cover up the Medium and Big Steps before doing the Giant Step.)

## Big Step

1:7 - \_\_\_\_\_ walk \_\_\_\_\_,  
as \_\_\_\_\_ light, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Giant Step:

1:7 - But \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Review - I John 1:7

1. Say I John 1:1—5 to yourself and then write out verses 6—7 from memory.
2. What should we do if we sin?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) If we sin we should confess it to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) If we sin we should make sure that no one finds out.
3. If we sin and do not confess it to the Lord we are walking in the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place the correct word in the blank.) *dark/light*

## Step #8

***1 John 1:8 — If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.***

In these last verses we have learned that when we walk in the light we will always be quick to admit our sin and ask God to forgive us. Romans 3:23 says that we have all sinned. God knows everything, doesn't He? He knows when we sin. We couldn't ever fool Him even if we tried. But that doesn't stop some people from **trying**. Some people even fool themselves into thinking that God doesn't see it. And if they keep on walking in the dark, they may not even be able to tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

To "deceive" means to try to fool or mislead. John says that if we try to tell everyone that we don't sin, the only person we are fooling is ourselves. Our parents and friends know we aren't perfect. And we sure don't fool God. So we shouldn't try to kid ourselves. We might as well admit that we sin because everyone else knows it anyway. And if we say that we don't ever sin, God tells us in this verse that we are living a lie and don't even know what the truth is. *(When you have memorized this verse, be sure to start from the beginning of the chapter and say verses 1—8 to one of your parents before doing the Steps below.)*

### Small Step

1:8 - If we \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ sin, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in \_\_\_\_\_ . (Now you're going to cover up this Step before doing the Medium Step below and cover up the Small and Medium Steps before doing the Big Step, aren't you.)

### Medium Step

1:8 - \_\_\_\_\_ claim \_\_\_\_\_ sin, \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ not in \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Big Step

1:8 - If \_\_\_\_\_ claim to \_\_\_\_\_ , we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ us.

# Giant Step

1:8. If \_\_\_\_\_

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## Review - I John 1:8

1. From memory say I John 1:1—6 to yourself and then write out verses 7—8.
2. What does it mean when we say someone is trying to "deceive" us? (T or F)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) When someone is trying to "deceive" us, they are trying to help us.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) When someone is trying to "deceive" us, they are trying to fool us.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) When someone is trying to "deceive" us, they are lying.
3. Which statements are true and which are false?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) If we say we never sin, we are not fooling anyone but ourselves because everyone else can see that we are not telling the truth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) If we say we never sin, we are walking in the light.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c) If we say we never sin, we are really telling people that we don't know what the truth is.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d) When we walk in the light with Jesus, we have fellowship not only with Jesus, but also with God, the Father and with other Christians.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e) If we say we never sin, we are walking in darkness.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ f) If we say we never sin, we can have good fellowship with other Christians because they will think we never do anything wrong.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ g) If we say we never sin, we are deceiving ourselves.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ h) If we try to hide something from God we are walking in the dark.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ i) If we do something wrong and confess it to the Lord we are walking in the light.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ j) If we do something wrong and confess it to the Lord, Jesus blood will make us as clean as if we had never done anything wrong.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ k) To "deceive" means to fool or mislead.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ l) If we don't confess our sins to the Lord, He may not find out about them.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ m) We should ask the Lord to help us not to sin, but if we do sin, we shouldn't try to cover it up.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ n) When we are "deceived" we are walking in the light.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ o) If someone tells us that they never sin, we know they are a good Christian.

## Step #9

***1 John 1:9 — If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

To "confess" means to admit or own up to. "Unrighteousness" is the same as sin. Okay, so we are sinners and we can't hide it so just in case we don't get the picture yet, John tells us again. If we don't try to hide our sin, but we "confess" it or "admit" it to the Lord, Jesus will forgive us and "purify" us. Remember, to "purify" means to make clean from anything that is dirty. When we "confess" our sin to God, He not only forgives us, John reminds us that He makes us pure and white again, just as if we had never done anything wrong.

Notice, this verse says that God is "*faithful and just*". What do you think it means to be "faithful" and "just"? When someone is "faithful", it means he can be trusted to keep his word. He will not say one thing today, and something else tomorrow. And what he says, he will do. When someone is "just", it means he is a fair and honest judge. So when John says that God is "faithful and just", it means that He is a fair judge whose word can be trusted. He is always right and He always judges fairly.

So a "just", judge must punish someone who breaks the law whether he wants to or not. If a murderer is a friend of his, the judge can't just say, "Oh, that's okay! You're my friend. We won't punish you ". If someone commits murder, he has broken the law and must be punished. So a "just" judge has to order punishment even if he doesn't want to. If a judge lets a murderer go free, then he isn't a "just" judge.

Now we have sinned and sin is breaking God's law, isn't it? Our sin must be punished. Remember, God is a just and righteous judge who must judge fairly. Even though God loves us, He has no choice, He must see that our sins are punished. He can't just say, "Oh, that's okay!" and forget about the sins we have done as if they had never happened. If He did, He wouldn't be a "just" judge.

God loved us so much that He planned a way so that our sin could be punished, but we would not have to suffer the punishment ourselves. He sent His own Son, His only Son, Jesus, to take our place. Jesus had never done one thing wrong. He did not deserve to be punished, but He took the punishment that should have been ours. Even though He did not deserve it, Jesus died as a criminal because our sins, the sins of the worst criminals and the sins of the whole world were put on Him. That is why **anyone** who comes to Jesus can have their sins forgiven and be washed clean.

So God is a "just" judge. Jesus took our place and our punishment. And because our punishment has already been paid, God will be "faithful" to His Word. If we do something wrong and we confess it to Him, He will forgive us and wash us clean, because Jesus has already taken the punishment for that sin.

**Small Step:** (Before doing this Step be sure to say verses 1-9 to one of your parents.)

1:9 - If we \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_, he is  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and will forgive us our  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us from all  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(You were going to cover up this Step before doing the Medium Step below, weren't you? And cover the Small and Medium Step before doing the Big Step and cover the Small, Medium and Big Steps before doing the Giant Step?)

**Medium Step**

1:9 - \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ sins, \_\_\_\_\_ is  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and will forgive \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ sins \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ all  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Big Step**

1:9 - \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ sins \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ all  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Giant Step**

1:9 - If \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Review - I John 1:9**

1. Say I John 1:1—7 to yourself and then write out verses 8—9.
2. Mark the following statements "True" or "False":
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a) A "just" judge makes sure his friends aren't punished if they break the law.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b) God has to punish sin because He is a "just" judge.

## Step #10

***I John 1:10 — If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.***

Now, here is something else! We learned in the earlier verses that if we tell people we don't sin, we don't know truth from fiction. We learned that we are not only lying to other people, but worst still, we're lying to ourselves. **Now** we are told that if we say we haven't sinned, we are saying that **God** is a liar! How about that? It's one thing for **us** to be liars, but saying **God** is a liar is pretty serious stuff. God has told us very clearly in Romans 3:23 that **we have all** sinned. And if we say, "Oh, No, I've never sinned!" Then either we are lying or God is lying, and I think we can guess which one it is.

God says the reason that someone would lie about this, is because they either don't know what He says in His Word or they don't care what He says in His Word. This is why it is important for us to know what God's Word says to us. When we **read** it we may or may not remember it, but when we **memorize** it, we remember it. When we memorize it, we have it in our hearts for God to speak to us - anytime - any place. *(This is the last verse in Chapter 1 of I John. Don't forget to start from the beginning of the Chapter when you say it to one of your parents.)*

### Small Step

1:10 - If \_\_\_\_\_ we have \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
we make \_\_\_\_\_ out to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and His  
\_\_\_\_\_ has no \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ . (Were you going to cover them up?)

### Medium Step:

1:10 - If \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ make him \_\_\_\_\_ a  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ has no \_\_\_\_\_ in  
our \_\_\_\_\_. (Turn the page for the Big Step.)

## Big Step:

1:10 - \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Giant Step:

1:10 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Review - I John 1:9—10

1. Say verses 1—7 to yourself from memory and write out verses 8—10.

2. Which statements are true and which are false?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Jesus could take the punishment for our sins because he had never sinned and did not deserve the punishment Himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) God says in His Word that there are only a **few** people who have never sinned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) When someone breaks the law, a just judge must punish him whether he wants to or not.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) God has said that we have all sinned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) When someone is "faithful" we cannot believe what he says.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f) We should always say that we don't sin so no one will know.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g) A "just" judge is an honest and fair judge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h) When we memorize God's Word, we will always have it with us to help us to "walk in the light".
- \_\_\_\_\_ i) If we say we have not sinned we are saying God is a liar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ j) Jesus took our place of punishment so we would never have to be punished for the sins we have committed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ k) If a just judge is a true friend to a murderer, he will see that he is not punished for his crime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ l) If we say we have not sinned we are walking in the light.
- \_\_\_\_\_ m) If we say we have not sinned, we either do not know God's Word, or we do not believe it.

3. In Romans 3:23, God says that we have all sinned. If someone says "Oh no! That's not true, I've never sinned.", what are they really saying?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Review - I John Chapter 1**

1. Write out Chapter 1 of I John from memory. (Use a computer if you have one and would like to use it.) If there are any places that you are having trouble with, be sure to go over them so you know for sure that you can say the whole chapter without stopping to think. It is important that you know it well before going on to Chapter 2.

Mark all of the answers below either "T" or "F".

2. What does it mean to walk in the light?

- a) To walk in the light means to never do anything wrong.
- b) To walk in the light means we should try always to walk with Jesus. We should be open and honest about everything we do and if we do sin, we should confess it to the Lord right away so we can be forgiven.
- c) If we are walking in the light we should be sure to hide anything we do wrong so that everyone will think we are good Christians.

3. Who is the "Word of life" mentioned in verse 1? (Read John 1:1-3, 14 first.)

- a) The "Word of life" is the One who created the world and everything in it.
- b) The "Word of life" is God who became a man.
- c) The "Word of life" is our Lord Jesus.

4. What should we do if we sin even when we try not to?

- a) If we sin we should not say anything about it so that no one will know.
- b) If we sin we should be sure to tell our Sunday School teacher.
- c) If we sin we should confess it to the Lord right away and ask Him to wash us clean again so our fellowship with Him will not be broken.

5. Read carefully, the statements below, and mark each one either T or F.

- a) The book of I John was written by the Apostle Paul.
- b) The one who wrote this book is writing about what he, himself, heard from Jesus.
- c) Light always chases away darkness, because darkness cannot stay where there is light.
- d) Darkness and light are always in the same place at the same time.
- e) Because God is perfect light, there is no darkness in Him.
- f) Sin and darkness are good friends.
- g) Sin separates us from God.
- h) We don't want to make God unhappy so it is best not to tell Him if we do something that we know is wrong.
- i) If we sin, our fellowship with God is broken.

## Review - I John Chapter 1 (Continued)

Write the number of the word in the first column by the correct meaning in the second column.

- |                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| 1. faithful           | _____ | where there is no light                         |
| 2. fellowship         | _____ | sin   |
| 3. deceive            | _____ | to admit or own up to                           |
| 4. testify            | _____ | a letter  |
| 5. the "Word of life" | _____ | loving someone and being good friends           |
| 6. darkness           | _____ | to tell everyone who will listen                |
| 7. purify             | _____ | being fair and honest in our judging            |
| 8. unrighteousness    | _____ | to tell about what we know to be true           |
| 9. confess            | _____ | to wash clean from anything dirty               |
| 10. proclaim          | _____ | to keep our word and do what we say we will do. |
| 11. just              | _____ | Jesus   |
| 12. epistle           | _____ | to try to fool or mislead                       |

# Congratulations!!!

You have just finished memorizing Chapter One  
of John's First Epistle . . .

# I John 1

**1. That which was from the beginning,  
which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes,  
which we have looked at and our hands have touched—  
this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.**

**2. The life appeared;  
we have seen it and testify to it,  
and we proclaim to you the eternal life,  
which was with the Father and has appeared to us.**

**3. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard,  
so that you also may have fellowship with us.  
And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.**

**4. We write this to make our joy complete.**

**5. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:  
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

**6. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,  
we lie and do not live by 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, purifies us from all sin.**

**8. If we claim to be without sin,  
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

**10. If we claim we have not sinned,  
we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.**