

LIFEGROUP STUDY

40 DAYS OF REDEEMING LOVE—1 JOHN 1

WARMING UP

In 40 Days of Redeeming Love, we are joining together with fellow brothers and sisters at the BCEC to do Lenten Readings through the book of 1 John 1. Each day contains prompts focused on either your community, family and your own relationship with God.

Have you given up anything, or taken up anything during this season of Lent? Why?

How would you define your “family” and “community”? What are some differences between the two? Can there ever be overlap?

READ 1 JOHN 1:1-4 INTRODUCTION

1. What are some of the similarities between this passage with the Gospel of John chapter 1?
2. How would you define the word “Fellowship”?
3. What does it mean to have fellowship with others, and fellowship with God? What are the differences?

READ 1 JOHN 1:5-10 LIVING IN THE LIGHT

4. What does John mean when he says “God is light”?
5. What does light mean? What does darkness mean?
6. If the blood of Jesus cleanses us of all sin, are we therefore without sin? Why can we not make this claim?
7. So if we have been cleansed without sin, can we ever become sinless?
8. Why must we confess our sins?
9. What does the act of confession mean? What actually happens?

10. Below is a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, discuss it with your group, and share your thoughts.

“In confession there takes place a breakthrough to community. Sin wants to be alone with people. It takes them away from the community. The more lonely people become, the more destructive the power of sin over them. The more deeply they become entangled in it, the more unholy is their loneliness. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of what is left unsaid sin poisons the whole being of a person. In confession the light of the gospel breaks into the darkness and closed isolation of the heart. Sin must be brought into the light. What is unspoken is said openly and confessed. All that is secret and hidden comes to light. It is a hard struggle until the sin crosses one’s lips in confession. But God breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron (Ps. 107:16) Since the confession of sin is made in the presence of another Christian, the last stronghold of self-justification is abandoned. The sinner surrenders, giving up all evil, giving the sinner’s heart to God and finding the forgiveness of all one’s sin in the community of Jesus Christ and other Christians. Sin that has been spoken and confessed has lost all of its power.”

APPLYING THE PASSAGE

11. With the three focuses (your community, your family, your relationship with God), how can we have better fellowship with them? How does being accountable to them look like? And how can they keep you accountable?
12. With your three focuses in mind, is there something you have to confess to someone else and seek reconciliation over?
13. Honestly speaking, how is your relationship with God currently?

MOVING FORWARD IN PRAYER

- Spend some time praying for one another, if there is a struggle of sin, confess before God and/or with one another in your group or pair.
- If there are other prayer requests regarding accountability, now would be the time to pray into that.
- Alternatively, you can pray for each other’s relationship with God and for each other’s lenten season to be filled with God’s redeeming love.