

Celebrating our Graduates

Join us in celebrating and praying for these high school seniors as they take their next step into this new season.

Anna Wilhite
Asher Ellet
Beatrice Gayed
Brady Schroeder
Campbell Sloan
Cayden Clay
Emily Albertson
Franklin Bales
Gabriel Cody Li
Grace Milliman
Maddy Emrick
Mason Hanna
Olivia Hoch
Reghan Fix
Samantha Shriner
Sara Moreau
Taylor Parrish
Trace Parris



May 16 & 17, 2026 | Living in the Light- 1 | 1 John 1:1-4 | Sam Ward

JOHN'S CLAIM: JESUS IS REAL (V. 1-2)

1 John 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.

1. John uses poetic, sensory language to create LAYERS... over two big ideas:
 - a. Jesus is ETERNAL.
 - b. Jesus is a real, physical PERSON.
 - John in *1 John 1:1*
 - Peter in *2 Peter 1:16*
 - Thomas in *John 20:27*
2. This means that Jesus IS...
 - a. God's PLAN from the beginning.
 - b. with US, Emmanuel.

THE PURPOSE: FELLOWSHIP (V.3)

1 John 1:3 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.

What is FELLOWSHIP? κοινωνία koinōnia; participation, sharing, communion or connection.

1. Connection with GOD.
2. Connection with EACH OTHER.

John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

THE RESULT: OUR JOY (V.4)

1 John 1:4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1. We tend to think that...
 - a. Life SITUATIONS = joy
 - b. Good BEHAVIOR = joy
2. The truth is that...
FELLOWSHIP and CONNECTION = joy

THE GOSPEL CENTER: HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

1. Jesus came in the FLESH
...He is the one, true sacrifice for our sins.
2. JESUS is light, not hidden in darkness
...God is ACCESSIBLE.
3. Jesus loved us FIRST
...So we can love ONE ANOTHER.

OUR RESPONSE: LIVE IN THE LIGHT

1. KNOW (*hear, see*)

- a. Sit in SCRIPTURE.
- b. Believe in FAITH.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. CONNECT (*touch*)

- a. With God in PRAYER.
- b. With people in COMMUNITY (real relationships).

3. TELL (*testify/proclaim*) - The apostles couldn't help themselves. (Acts 4:20)

Ask Yourself

Are you living like someone who knows about Jesus, or someone who truly knows Him?