



FELLOWSHIP

Enjoying God

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Full-size and ready-to-print handouts, coloring pages, memory verse tokens and posters for this volume are available online. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for item #A1041 for a ready-to-print PDF download.

Lesson 1

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD WHO IS LIGHT

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The Apostle John had at least three purposes for writing his first letter:

1. *Fulness of joy*. “. . . These things we write to you, that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:4). God wants His own to have joy—full, complete, perfect joy. The joy of the Lord is the strength of the child of God. (See Nehemiah 8:10.)
2. *Freedom from sinning*. “. . . These things write I unto you, that you sin not” (1 John 2:1). God knows that as long as His people live, they will always have their old sin natures. (See 1 John 1:8.) But this root of sin does not need to produce sins. If a Christian should sin, God has provided an Advocate—the Lord Jesus Christ. (See 1 John 2:1-2.) An “Advocate” is a *Helper*. Christ Jesus helps God’s children by talking to God for them. (Compare Hebrews

7:25.)

3. *Assurance of eternal life*. “These things have I written to you who believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). The child of God can know positively that He has life eternal.

The person who truly believes in Christ has assurance of eternal life, is free from the bondage of sinning and has fulness of joy. Such a person will live a life of fellowship with God and with other believers. These are the truths found in John’s first letter.

Throughout the lesson, explain the Bible meaning of the word “fellowship”: *partnership, association, sharing, participating*.

Scripture to be studied: 1 John 1:1-10; 2:3-17; 5:9-13

The aim of the lesson: To show that children of God can have fellowship with Him.

What your students should know: The Lord Jesus had to die to make it possible for God’s children to have fellowship with Him.

What your students should feel: Hatred for any sin that keeps them from having fellowship with God.

What your students should do: Confess all sins to God immediately so they can walk in His light.

Lesson outline (for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks):

1. Those who truly trust in Christ can have fellowship with God (1 John 1:1-5; 5:9-13; John 1:1-14).
2. A child of God who hates others cannot have fellowship with God (1 John 1:5-10; 2:3-11).
3. A child of God who loves this world cannot have fellowship with God (1 John 2:15-17).
4. To have fellowship with God, His children must live in His light (1 John 1:3-9).

The verse to be memorized:

Our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

THE LESSON

Let us suppose that you know of a place high on a hillside where everything is magnificent. The scenery is beautiful. Fishing, hunting and berry-picking are excellent. The whole area is owned by a man and his son. Only those who are good friends of the son are allowed to live there. Indeed, the owner adopts his son’s friends, making them members of his happy family. All are eager to obey the rules for they dearly love the owner. What rules do you think they might have in such a family? (Encourage student discussion. If possible, have them write down their rules.)

A day comes when you, too, are taken into that family. Things are even more wonderful than you expected. The owner himself comes to talk with you every morning and evening. You learn that you and he are actually in partnership with each other. He shares his plans with you. You tell him all your hopes. You take part in all he does.