

Sermon Supplement from January 7

Laying the Foundation | 1 John 1:1-4

Warm Up

- Watch the Bible Project book overview video for 1-3 John (9 min)
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/>
- Read the intro to 1 John in a study Bible or online resource.
- How does this information better prepare you to study 1 John?

Dig In

- **Read 1 John 1:1-4** | What are your initial thoughts about this passage? What jumps out to you? What would you say is the big idea? Why do you think John starts this way (which is unique among the New Testament letters except Hebrews)?
- In **verse 1** John gets very specific about his experience with Jesus. How does what he said help you build your own foundation on Jesus?
- **Verses 2-3a** use words like “testify” and “proclaim” to help us understand the importance of witnessing to Jesus. What is your testimony regarding how Jesus has changed your life? Who needs you to tell them about Jesus?
- **Verse 3b** talks about the familiar topic of Christian fellowship. How would you define Christian fellowship? Why is it vital that we have both fellowship with God (vertical) and fellowship with other believers (horizontal)? What do you need to do to experience greater fellowship with God and other Christians?
- In **verse 4** John shares part of his purpose in writing – “*that our joy may be complete.*” How would you like to experience that kind of soul-satisfying joy? When have you experienced it? What keeps people from it? How might you experience it more fully?

WRAP-UP

- What do you think about this statement that draws together the four main points of the sermon: *Experience produces Testimony, Testimony produces Fellowship, Fellowship produces Joy.*
- In what ways has this study encouraged or challenged you make Jesus the foundation of your life?