

Aim of lesson

To consider the apostle John's teaching about walking in the light.

Bible background

1 John 1,2 and 3.

Outline of lesson

The last of this group of fifteen lessons is a look at the first letter of John, in particular his teaching about walking in light.

You may like to ask the class what they would say and whom would they include if they had to make a 'This Is Your Life' programme for the apostle John. In this way, or simply by questions, remind the class of John, a fisherman, brother of James, called by Jesus to be his disciple. He had lived with Jesus for 3 1/2 years; had seen him die; had seen him alive again; and with Peter and the other apostles had been involved in the growth of the church. Now he is writing to a group of believers. He is an older man by this time. Have the class look at 1 John 1:3-4 and discuss his reason for writing to them. For classes which have little previous knowledge of the Bible, this could form the majority of the lesson. The class could look back over the growth of the early church as the apostle John could recall it, and think of what would be important to him.

Read together 1 John 1:5-7 to see how John describes the message he has heard, and is now declaring to the believers. In this way introduce the theme of walking in the light.

Have the class look at the worksheets. To complete the sheet, the class begin at the words START HERE near the foot of the page and progress up through each box answering the questions each contains. This is the path to follow when walking in the light. Each box has an arrow that leads off into the darkness but goes nowhere. The answers to the questions about walking in darkness go in the arrows. References are given for each question. This can be done individually or in pairs. All answers could be discussed at the end or as you go along.

You may like to ask the class what the meaning of 'the world' is in John 3:16 "God so loved the world", and in 1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world". Bring out that the first refers to the people in the world, and the second to the values and ways of thinking in the world.

Digging deeper

The book of Revelation

The book of Revelation is difficult to understand, but this section points out some things we can be sure of.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class which 'box' with its teaching will they try to remember and put into practice during the week.

Prayer

A subject may have come up in discussion that you would like to write a prayer about. Alternatively, the class could write a prayer the apostle John might have said if he could have seen into the future and prayed for your class.

Other suggestions for activities

- The class could produce a 'This Is Your Life' of the apostle John, and act it out.
- The class could each choose a phrase or verse from 1 John and make a poster for the classroom or their own room at home. 1 John 1:7, 9; 2:2, 5, 6, 10, 17, 25, 28 and 3:1, 20, all contain suitable phrases.