



### What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Jump 6 :: Monday, January 13 • On Location!**  
We're jumping back in to our on location series this week! We're going to be heading to Paris, France to take a look at the Eiffel Tower. Bring a friend & some change because checkers will be open! 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in Lower Court
- **Vertical Edge :: Tuesday, January 14 • Campus Night!**  
Do you ever feel like the talking dog, Dug, from the 2009 movie "Up"? Are you easily distracted (Squirrel!) in your desire to honour God with your words and actions? Let's start the year off right at the first VE campus night as we learn from *Philippians 4:6 (NIV)* *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* Remember to bring change because checkers will be open! Bring your friends and money for Checkers! 7-9pm in West Court.



### January 11/12 lesson

- Series:** 1 John  
**Lesson:** Introduction to 1 John  
**Scripture:** 1 John 1:1-4

## A STUDY OF FIRST JOHN



### Chew Time

- Read Luke 9:23-56



## A) Timeline:

- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ years of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Fire breaks out in Rome & burns for \_\_\_\_\_ days, destroying most of the city
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians experience great \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ The Jews \_\_\_\_\_ against the Romans
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ The governor of Judea from A.D. 64-66 allows a massacre of Jews in \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ is built in Rome
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple comes to pass when the Romans destroy Jerusalem & destroy the temple (Mt. 24:1-2)
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Vesuvius erupts and destroys the cities of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ John writes his Gospel and later, the books of \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Domitian, the emperor of Rome, exiles John to the Island of \_\_\_\_\_
- A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is invented in \_\_\_\_\_

## Break it down:

### The Author: John

Just in case the title didn't give it away, the author of this letter is John. You might remember John from the Gospels—he was one of Jesus' disciples. He and his brother James were very close to Jesus, along with Simon Peter. John and James were fishermen by trade, and worked for their father, Zebedee, when Jesus called them to follow him (*Luke 5:1-11*). John and his brother left everything to follow Jesus. Of all the disciples, John was the one closest to Jesus—kind of like his “best friend” (*John 21:20*).



This means that 1 John is written by someone who didn't just know about Jesus, but knew Him like a brother; walking with Him and witnessing everything He did! That is exciting! Although John was probably a large and gruff man (*his nickname was “son of thunder” Mark 3:17*), by the end of Christ's ministry on earth, John knew, understood, and embodied the tenderness of God's love. John's emphasis on love is very strong in his writing.

It seems that John had a passion for communicating this love to people who didn't know Christ. John became a leader in the early church, and ultimately was exiled (or imprisoned) on the isle of Patmos (off the coast of modern-day Turkey) for exhibiting his faith. There he received a great vision, or revelation, from the Lord, which he wrote down in the book of Revelation.

### The Audience: Christians Everywhere

John wrote this letter to Christians everywhere. It was not uncommon for leaders in the Christian faith to write letters that were copied and circulated to churches to be read aloud. One of the major problems John addressed in this letter was that of false teachers. Since Christianity was only 50-60 years old, some people had returned to beliefs and practices that were not from God. John spends a lot of time in this book speaking against false teachers who did not believe that Jesus actually lived, or that Jesus was God's Son. These teachers were spreading false beliefs that were leading some believers astray.

- ▶ **Place of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ **Who was the intended reader:** the churches of \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Second & third generation Christians.

**B) Themes to be explored in this series:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of God: ex. His holiness, love, mercy, truthfulness, faithfulness, goodness, patience, justice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus: We are saved by God’s grace through faith in Christ, and by faith alone. Jesus Christ, who by his death has redeemed humanity from the power of sin, death and eternal punishment.
- *Christian* \_\_\_\_\_ : learning to walk in the “light”.
- *Love &* \_\_\_\_\_ : living in “love” with one another. The unity of the body of Christ.
- *Importance of* \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching : knowing & understanding what we believe as a Christian.
- *Confidence of* \_\_\_\_\_ : being certain that believers are children of God

**C) Read 1 John 1:1-4 & fill in the blanks as you go:**

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . We saw him with our own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him with our own \_\_\_\_\_ . He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have \_\_\_\_\_ him. And now we \_\_\_\_\_ (4) and proclaim to you that he is the one who is \_\_\_\_\_ (3) life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ so that you may have \_\_\_\_\_ (5) with us. And our \_\_\_\_\_ is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our \_\_\_\_\_ (6).

1. What are your five senses?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you know people now who don't believe Jesus is God? Do you know people now who don't even believe that Jesus was real?

A false teaching that was circulating in the church in John's day was that Jesus didn't have a real human body. The false teachers said that he was from God, but he just *appeared* to have a body. **Say what!?** John is being very clear that he heard, saw & touched Jesus in his body (& you know he would have smelled him also ☺).

3. John is also being very clear that Jesus the Son is \_\_\_\_\_. Meaning without beginning & without end. Along with the Holy Spirit & God the Father they make the \_\_\_\_\_.

\*\*\*Note on the word eternal: This word was understood by the original readers to not just refer to time, but also to quality. ex. **Forever & incredible!**

4. In a court of law witnesses would testify to what they saw. A witness would also explain the events. This is what John is saying he is doing here. John is not trying to make a big deal of himself, but to draw everyone's attention to Jesus. This is like when John the Baptist said

*"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less" (John 3:30)*

5. *Fellowship* is understood as a deep sharing of things in common. That is what makes the unity of the body of Christ so incredible. The word "fellowship" has two directions. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. John teaches us that our fellowship is not only with other believers (the \_\_\_\_\_ aspect) but is, of course, with God (\_\_\_\_\_ aspect).

6. How would you define the word "joy"? What other words could you use?

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**John 15:11 (NLT)** *Jesus: I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*

This verse is describing joy as a gift of God, which comes from the knowledge & experience of the life that God gives. John is explaining that our Joy comes from experiencing God's presence & sharing that knowledge & life with others. This "joy" is to be ultimately the peace in life, the cure for loneliness, the fulfilled life.