



God is light! Does your life reflect His light? Learn to walk with Jesus through 1 John in this 8-week series starting Sunday, March 5.

Series Components

8-session series starting Sunday, March 5. Includes video teaching by Pastor Kevin and Mount Hope pastors equipped with discussion guides.

When will groups meet?

From March 5 - April 30.
Day of the week is your choice.

How often will groups meet?

Weekly for 8 weeks with a break for Easter.

How long are the meetings?

Allow 90+ minutes and about 30 minutes for hanging out afterward.

What do I need for the first Day?

In-Person: Clean house and some snacks.

Online: Zoom and numerous reminders.

Both: A reviewed lesson and a means to show the teaching video.

SERIES TIMELINE

Now	Host Recruiting & Invite Members	
March 5	Connection Event, Series Begins	
March 12	Week 2	
March 19	Week 3	
March 26	Week 4	
		April 2 Week 5
		Break for Easter
		April 16 Week 6
		April 23 Week 7
		April 30 Week 8

The Basics

CO-HOST

You need a co-host, because you will need a break! Think of someone and invite them to join you as the co-host. Don't do this alone!

CHILDCARE

The easier the childcare, the easier it is for people to join. Consider childcare options: Does someone from the church live nearby? Do you know a member of the youth group?

FORMAT & CURRICULUM

The group discussion will be directed by the video. It's best to watch the video ahead of time to prepare yourself, but the video will do most of the work for you.

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE STUDY GUIDE

Start with the Getting Started section, view the video when directed, and then continue with the discussion questions.

Gathering Your Group: HOW PEOPLE CAN JOIN YOUR GROUP

- 1. Personal Invitation.** Consider the Circles of Life, your “speed dial” list, your Facebook friends, etc. Who is in your life that would *enjoy* or *benefit* from this study?
- 2. Small Group Connection.** On Sunday, March 5, every open and approved small group will participate in the Small Group Connection between each service. It’s simple! You just stand near a banner and meet folks who want to join a group for the “Walking with Jesus” series.



HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADERS

Remember: it is God alone who has assembled your group and given you the opportunity to lead. Without question, it is God who will supply the grace and the strength to guide your group through this series.

REVIEW THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST YOU IN LEADING YOUR GROUP

God is In Charge. Rely solely on Him and be faithful in prayer for strength and wisdom. You were not selected to do this on your own nor were you selected to serve without being served. Be open and willing for how God wants to use you to lead while He alone does His work in you.

Partner Up. Partner with a spouse, a friend, or another group member for prayer support as well as practical assistance in hospitality, follow up, and reporting.

Be Prepared. Be prepared to review and discuss the sessions before your group arrives. Simply review the video session and discussion guide in advance.

Be Open. God wants to use you as you are—where you are in your own journey to connect with others. Most importantly, as a group, support each other in prayer while ensuring a safe harbor of confidentiality. Honor each other by listening, encouraging, praying, and keeping confidentiality as a non-negotiable principle.

Encourage Participation. While each is differently wired, it is important to orchestrate conversation that encourages each personality type to feel comfortable.

Have Fun. This is not a task. This is God at work through your willingness to lead. Often groups begin with dinner where social connection becomes a key ingredient to trusting each other and growing together.

Ask for Input. Be flexible on how you lead and how the group wishes to refine the amount of time spent and the flow of the session. There is not one perfect way.

Pray. Pray often and consistently and in cooperation with reading the Bible daily. Your strength and sustenance will come from reading and seeking God in prayer. Surrender in advance to your own ideas and agendas and replace them with inviting God to lead your group.

HONOR EACH OTHER

GROUP ATTENDANCE

We want to give priority to the group meeting. Please call or email if you will be late or can't attend.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We want to create a safe place where you share and feel loved. So we won't give quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes.

RESPECT DIFFERENCES

We will be gentle and gracious to people with different levels of spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments or imperfections.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep anything that is shared strictly confidential.

ENCOURAGE GROWTH

We will make a conscious effort to reach out to others and share our spiritual life. We will use the unique spiritual talents God has given us.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

We will keep an open chair so that God might bring someone new to our group.

SHARED OWNERSHIP

We will remember that each of us is a minister and will share team responsibilities.

ROTATE LEADERS

We want to have the option to encourage different people to host the group and lead the meeting.

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

KEEPING YOUR MEETING ON TRACK

- It's easy to chase rabbit trails, so if you feel like your group is starting on a subject outside of the curriculum, just say something like, "well guys, that's going to be a whole other (day, show, discussion), let's get back to today's discussion." Don't interrupt people. When you find the opportunity, get it back on track.
- If the discussion turns to criticism, please ask the critical person to go and speak directly to the person responsible ...they would love to talk with them about their concern.
- If something comes up that you do not know how to answer or deal with, just be honest. "I'm not sure about that one. Can I get back to you next week?"

UTILIZE YOUR COACH: DON'T WALK ALONE

All of the new hosts will have a coach to answer your questions and help you start your group. Your coach will call you regularly and see how you're doing. Most importantly, your coach and their small group will be praying for you.

If you are currently in a Life Group, then your coach can be your small group leader.

If you're not in a Life Group, then you'll meet a coach TODAY who will help you get your group started.

REPORTING YOUR GROUP'S PROGRESS

Check in with your coach at least once per week.

Report ONLINE (*attendance, prayer requests, other needs.*)

Each week you will receive an email after your meeting asking about who was there and what happened. Simply click the "We met" or "We didn't meet" link, then fill out a short online form. If you forget, you will be reminded the next day AND the day after that...

We would also like to know **what's happening** in your group: decisions for Christ, answers to prayer, life change.

CHILDCARE OPTIONS

1. Recruit someone to do children's ministry while your group is meeting.
2. Hire a babysitter. Have each member pitch in.

NOTE: Be generous to your sitter. You want them back. If you cheat them, word will spread!

3. Allow older children to supervise younger children with adults checking in.
4. Have group members trade off in watching the children.

The previous options could call for the children to meet at a different location from the group.

5. Allow the children to take part in the group. Offer topics and activities where everyone can participate.
6. Have each member arrange for their own childcare.
7. Trade off childcare with another group that meets on a different night.

NOTE: The harder it is for new members to arrange childcare, the less likely they will join.