

A WALK THROUGH LENT

with 1 John

1) Walking in the light

1 John 1:1 - 2:2 week beginning **23rd Feb**

2) Walking in fellowship	2:3-17	week beginning	2 nd Mar
3) Walking in the truth	2:18-29	week beginning	9 th Mar
4) Walking in love (1)	3:1 - 4:6	week beginning	16 th Mar
5) Walking in love (2)	4:7-21	week beginning	23 rd Mar
6) Walking in life	5:1-21	Joint Service	2 nd April
		<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7.30pm St Andrew's



READ: 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 (NIV)

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ **If we claim** to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ **If we claim** to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ **If we claim** we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

REFLECT:

1. Has Christian fellowship been a real encouragement to you, or is it something that has been more of a struggle?
2. What would you say is the true basis of Christian fellowship?

1 John 1:1-4

3. Here in 1:1-2 John announces the apostolic message. What is the content of this message?
4. Discuss the way in which John 20:30-31 is pinned down further in 1John 1:1-2.
5. In 1John 1:3-4 John homes in on 'fellowship'? Why do you think fellowship is so important when it is the Gospel message he is talking about?

1 John 1:5-7

6. What does John mean by 'walking in the light'? Look carefully at vv5-7 to probe this idea.
7. 'If we claim...' comes three times in today's study (v6, v8, v10). What is the specific test John is spelling out to us in v6-7?
8. When does the blood of Jesus purify us from all sin (v7)?

1 John 1:8-10

9. Here John probably has in mind people who say they no longer commit sins because they now have the Spirit. What truths about us and sin is John clarifying here?
10. In v9 when are we forgiven and purified?

1 John 2:1-2

11. In relation to sin, what should Christians aim at? Why do you think we should aim to be like this?
12. In v7 & v9 we saw when we are purified. Now, from 2:1-2, why, or on what basis, are we purified?

RESPOND:

13. On what occasions might you feel you have not sinned, when maybe you have?
14. How good are you at receiving criticism? If someone sheds uncomfortable light on your life, how do you respond?
15. How good are you at holding in tension the determination not to sin with the joy of forgiveness when you do sin?
16. What did it cost the Father to forgive the sins you have committed today?

Pray: Spend some time quietly reflecting upon the study. Consider the love and generosity of God in 2:2.