

# A WALK THROUGH LENT

with 1 John

|                          |           |                |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1) Walking in the light  | 1:1 - 2:2 | week beginning | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb |
| 2) Walking in fellowship | 2:3-17    | week beginning | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar  |
| 3) Walking in the truth  | 2:18-29   | week beginning | 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar  |

## 4) Walking in love (1)

**1 John 3:1 - 4:6** week beginning **16<sup>th</sup> Mar**

|                        |        |  |   |
|------------------------|--------|--|---|
| 5) Walking in love (2) | 4:7-21 | week beginning                                 | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar                        |
| 6) Walking in life     | 5:1-21 | <b>Joint Service</b><br><i>Maundy Thursday</i> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April<br>7.30pm St Andrew's |



## READ 1 John 3:1 – 4:6

### INTRODUCTION:

The greatest privilege of the Christian is to share the position of favour that Jesus enjoys with the Father in heaven. When we look at ourselves we have to marvel that we could be called 'children of God.' This is what we are digging into today.

### REFLECT:

#### 1 John 3:1-3

1. What privileges do you think we enjoy by being children of God along with Jesus?
2. *Alan Torrance describes one childhood Christmas. His father, Tom, had written many books on what it means to be a son of God. One Boxing Day the doorbell went and a tramp was standing at the door. Everyone's heart sank and Alan watched as his father invited the tramp in and gave him a place at his table. What simple truths might Tom have been putting into action?*
3. What sort of responsibility does this sonship bring?

#### 1 John 3:4-10

4. How do we know John is not arguing that true Christians lead lives of sinless perfection? (see his early point in 1:8 and 1:10). What might John mean when he says “no-one who lives in him keeps on sinning” (v6)?

5. Read the following verses: 1:3, 1:7, 2:10 and now 3:10. What does this tell us about the value placed on fellowship and love for other Christians in determining if our faith is real?
  
6. If we see our attendance at church start to slide, or we begin to suspect that we prefer other societies to church, should we be concerned?
  
7. At this point perhaps a few people could share with the group a time when their fellowship with brothers and sisters has meant everything to them.

## **1 John 3:11-24**

8. If brothers and sisters are to love us (warts and all!) what is the very different experience that we should have from the world, according to v11-15?

Is this our experience, in all honesty? Why might this be?

9. According to v16-18, our brother laid down his life for his brothers. Why do you think John includes this discussion of the cross in this exploration of being part of the family?

## 1 John 4:1-6

We now return to an important theme from last week: being discerning about those who seek positions of influence in the fellowship.

10. John says 'do not believe every spirit' and there will be 'many false prophets' (4:1). Are you surprised at how big an issue it seems to be to John that there are false teachers within the fellowship?
11. In v2 we see that—exactly as last week—belief about Jesus is a deal breaker: 'every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.' You may want to refer back to 2:22-23. What else are we looking for to test the 'spirits'? see v4-6.

## RESPONSE

12. All of our churches are experiencing different changes and challenges. How would you apply these tests when choosing people for leadership?
13. If a tramp was at your door, could you invite them in for a meal? Why or why not?