

I. Introduction:

What are some ways that you use to determine whether someone is telling the truth or lying?

II. Study: 1 John 1:1-10

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—
² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—
³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 cleanses us from all sin.
⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

III. Into the Bible:

1. There are a lot of repeated keywords and phrases here, list some of them.
2. The book begins with a lot of “we have heard...” “we looked...” type statements. Why do you think it’s important to start off this book with these statements?
3. What, do you think it means to “walk in the light”? What does it mean to “walk in darkness?”
4. What would you say is the main argument of this section in the book?
5. Why does the author call what he saw and heard “the word of life”? Why not “the message of Jesus Christ.” Or just “Jesus”?

IV. Application:

The central message of the bible, the gospel of Jesus Christ and its credibility is the foundation of our faith. It is the absolute foundation of all of our actions and how we live our lives. This gospel is rooted in the reality of eyewitness testimony. But it is not limited to just a historical event. This historical event spreads and affects how we “walk” and how we live our lives. If we know this historical event and its implications, it must affect how we live our lives. It will affect our relationships with each other and whether we’re living our lives in darkness or light.

5. Have you ever experienced an event that completely changed your life? What was it? How did it change you?
6. Would it make a difference to you if Jesus was not a real person who actually lived on earth? Would it make a difference in your life if the resurrection was not a real historical event? Why or why not?
7. Is the truth of the gospel the reality of your life? If so, how? If not, why not?