

**INTRO**

- What TV series/movie/book would you recommend to your group and why?

We start a new series in the book of 1 John called Authentic. John helps us know what it means and looks like to be an authentic Christian. (\*see background info on 1 John to understand the context).

**READ**

1 John 1:1-4

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

*Big Idea: we can KNOW God authentically because God has made himself KNOWN to us through Jesus.*

In the verses we read, we see John tells us Jesus is real, reveals God, and calls us into relationship with God and one another.

**REAL JESUS**

(v1). Christianity isn't founded on a philosophy nor principles but a historical and physical person, Jesus Christ. But Jesus isn't just any historical figure...John testifies that he was indeed God in the flesh

*Qu: based on v1, how could you respond to someone who says, "Faith is blind?"*

**REVEALING GOD**

(v2). "made manifest" means God chose to reveal himself, make himself known, through the historical, physical Jesus. So John testifies to a real Jesus revealing God. Why?

**FOR RELATIONSHIP**

(v3-4). John tells us his purpose for writing is so that we can seek out real fellowship with the Father and Son. And this fellowship leads us to have fellowship with one another as Christ is what holds us in common.

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*Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord." — J.I. Packer, Knowing God*  
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John paints a pure relationship of fellowship with God that many of us don't realistically enjoy.

*Qu: what are some reasons your own fellowship with God may be lacking?*

*Qu: what steps can you start or continue taking to pursue your relationship with God?*

**PRAY**

- Use UP-IN-OUT to guide your prayer to pray for one another, as well as our city.

**\*BACKGROUND CONTEXT FOR 1 JOHN:**

*Author:* Most likely John the Apostle written towards end of 1st century.

*Setting:* Written to Christians in Ephesus, arguably the most important city of that time.

*Crisis:* A group has left the church denying core doctrines around Jesus and his atoning work. They are sowing hostility and division amongst the remaining Christians. John writes to assure these Christians of what it means to be an authentic Christian.

*Style:* John reads more like a sermon than a letter. He circles back repetitively around 3 key themes of what it means to be an authentic Christian:

Head—what we believe about Jesus

Heart—love of God and one another

Hands—living an obedient lifestyle