Essentials for Resurrection Life The Book of First John – EPISODE 2 (1 John 1:5-10)

*Note for production team

1 John 1:5-10

God is light.

"This report asserts the excellency of the divine nature. He is all that beauty and perfection that can be represented to us by light. He is a self-active uncompounded spirituality, purity, wisdom, holiness, and glory. And then the absoluteness and fulness of that excellency and perfection. There is no defect or imperfection, no mixture of any thing alien or contrary to absolute excellency, no mutability nor capacity of any decay in him: In him is no darkness at all."

- Matthew Henry

*video loop: Northern Lights

Light helps you see yourself correctly.

Light helps you relate to others correctly.

God's word is the light that illuminates Truth about Him, so we can see Him correctly.

John 16:5-11 (NLT)

Screens for communion time. Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. Mighty God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your

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ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan.

Recite this prayer daily:

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. Mighty God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or your Group)

Read 1 John 1:5-10. What do you notice in this passage?

Sunday's message was about walking in the light of honest relationship with God and others. Did anything stand out to you or raise a question?

Read Matthew 6:19-24. How does this passage, especially verse 22, correlate with 1 John 1:5-6?

In what ways do we normalize sin instead of normalizing repentance and confession?

How would you want a friend to respond to you, if you confessed a sin to them?

Read John 16:5-11. What are these verses telling us about the role of the Holy Spirit?

Recite the above prayer as a group.