**THE OPENING ARGUMENT**

**1 John 1:1-4**

**THE BIG IDEA: While many continue to reject the Truth of Jesus, true Christians believe the Truth, declare the Truth, and live in the blessings of the Truth.**

**JESUS ISN’T A MYTHICAL FIGURE, HE IS GOD IN THE FLESH**

* *“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3 what we have seen and heard…”* (1 John 1:1-3a)
* **Jesus is eternal, without beginning or ending.**
* **Jesus is fully God and fully man.**
* **People refuse to accept that Jesus is God in the flesh because they want to remain in control of their own lives.**
* **The evidence that Jesus lived, died, and resurrected is beyond any normal burden of proof for what we accept as authentic historical facts.**

**BELIEVERS SHOULD PROCLAIM THE TRUTH ABOUT WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE**

* **A person who has been changed by Jesus will have an inner compulsion to declare the Truth of Jesus to others.**
* *“that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we also declare to you,”* (1 John 1:2-3a)
* **Every Christian has been instructed by Jesus to proclaim the message of the gospel, the Good News of Salvation!**

**THERE IS A COMPLETE JOY THAT IS EXPERIENCED IN THE FAMILY OF GOD THAT CANNOT BE EXPERIENCED ANYWHERE ELSE**

* **God has been establishing a diverse family from across the globe who have a greater unifying bond than any earthly entity, organization, or social club can provide.**
* *“what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”* (1 John 1:3-4)
* **There is no greater bond than the bond of fellow believers who have experienced redemption in Christ and are now brothers and sisters in the family of God!**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker: When was the first time you heard about, or thought about God and what were the circumstances?**

**Start Thinking:**

* + **What do you learn about God/Jesus from 1 John 1:1-4?**
  + **What is the purpose behind John writing this letter?**
  + **Why does John repeatedly use references to seeing, hearing, and touching Jesus in these verses?**
  + **What does it mean that Jesus is fully God and fully man?**

**Digging Deeper:**

* + **How have you wrestled with the concept of Jesus being fully God and fully man?**
  + **Why is it so important to affirm that Jesus is both?**
  + **What reasons have you heard that challenge that Jesus is fully God and fully man? How do you respond?**
  + **How can you be more proactive at “declaring” the Truth of Jesus?**
  + **What are the benefits of having genuine and solid relationships with other believers?**
  + **What is your big takeaway from this message?**