

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **January 8, 2017** sermon, "When We See the Lord." Please read the sermon passage (Revelation 1) together out loud. Today's sermon is meant to give us an overview of John's life and help us gain further traction into what we will learn from him when we study 1 John.

1. **John, the servant of the Lord (1-3)**
 - A. A servant, or "bond-servant" is one who is "completely controlled" by Jesus Christ.
 - B. John is a servant permanently and willingly, and it is all because of love (Exodus 21:5-6).
 - C. A servant knows enough of the plans of his master to get busy in serving him.
 - i. Remember that John was one of the "Sons of Thunder."
 - ii. He was a part of Jesus' inner circle. He saw great things and knew Jesus well.
 - iii. He did not know everything about Jesus' plans. Just enough to keep serving.
2. **John, the prophet of the Lord (3-8)**
 - A. God revealed that which was previously unknown to John. John wrote it down.
 - B. John looks ahead to a glorious and global return, when Jews and Gentiles who have rejected Jesus Christ will lament and weep.
3. **John, the worshiper of the Lord (9-20)**
 - A. In imprisonment, weakness and isolation, John spends time alone with God on Sunday.
 - B. Some of John's most fruitful days in ministry are spent in writing Revelation, when he may have been tempted to think that his fruitful days were over.
 - C. In very difficult days, John sees Jesus in the midst of his imperfect churches, protecting them, encouraging them, purifying them and guiding them.
 - D. When John sees Jesus, he gets "as low as he can as fast as he can," assuming a position of submission before the Lord. Jesus responds, "Fear not."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Have you ever had a moment in your life when you consciously ceded all control of your life over God, your Lord? (Exodus 21:1-6) Has this been a permanent and willing and loving arrangement? Where do you most struggle with trying to take control back?
2. Based on #1, above: Many will not commit to being a servant until all their questions are answered. But John's questions were answered slowly over time by being in relationship with Jesus. Will you follow him closely even with unanswered questions?
3. Based on #2, above: How does believing this prophecy, that Jesus Christ will return "soon," gloriously, globally and that the whole world will find his every word to be true bring comfort to your heart and mind?
4. Based on #3, above: When John was alone, he turned to the Lord and continued to worship him. When he saw the glorified Christ, he immediately assumed a posture of submission. Does this pattern of personal devotion to God characterize your life? How can you grow?