

### Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 John 2:1-14 & Luke 14:1-14. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. Why did John address his readers as *dear children*? What does that indicate about the nature of what he is about to share? How would you react if Pastor John referred to you as a “dear child”? For John, what is the clearest evidence for faith in Jesus? Would there be enough evidence to convict you?
3. In 1 John 2:1-2 what has God given as provision for sinners? What 3 things does John say this “Advocate,” Jesus, does for us?
4. Why is it important that we see the command to love one another as a commandment from the beginning? How is it both an “old” & a “new” command? How can we demonstrate the love of God & the life of Jesus in us in a society that often promotes self-interest & competition?
5. How does your relationship with God affect your relationships with other people? Do you think our relationships with each other within the church mean anything to those outside the Christian faith?
6. What influences of the world most try to shape your life? How do you deal with them?
7. What limits do we place on relationships we experience at church or in our neighbourhoods that stop us living Jesus’ love & sharing life together? What will you do to exceed those limits this week?
8. How does teaching in Lk 14:7-14 complement the healing in vs 1-6?
9. How are mercy, humility & hospitality such clear signs of Christ alive & active in someone’s life? On a 1 (low) – 10 (high) scale, rate yourself on those traits. Just for discussion purposes, how do you feel about your rating? What would need to happen for you to rate yourself more toward the “10” end? How would your friends rate you? Would their rating differ from yours? Why/not?
10. Spend a minute thinking through vs 14. How does Jesus’ call to spend our lives living toward the resurrection shift your usual focus on simply getting through today?
11. What other questions do you still have?

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today  
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.  
In Jesus’ Name...Amen.***

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

## *COME TO JESUS*

**OPENING SONG:** Come Praise and Glorify

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## *GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:** 1 John 2:1-14

<sup>1</sup> My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. <sup>2</sup> He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins - & not only our sins but the sins of all the world. <sup>3</sup> We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup> If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar & is not living in the truth. <sup>5</sup> But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. <sup>6</sup> Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment - to love one another - is the same message you heard before. <sup>8</sup> Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, & you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, & the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup> If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light & does not cause others to stumble. <sup>11</sup> But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living & walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you who are God’s children  
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you who are mature in the faith  
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I am writing to you who are young in the faith  
because you have won your battle with the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> I have written to you who are God’s children because you know the Father.  
I have written to you who are mature in the faith  
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong.  
God’s word lives in your hearts, & you have won your battle with the evil one.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:****SONG:** Blessed be Your Name**BIBLE READING:** Luke 14:1-14

<sup>1</sup> One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, & the people were watching him closely. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there whose arms & legs were swollen. <sup>3</sup> Jesus asked the Pharisees & experts in religious law, "Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?" <sup>4</sup> When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick man & healed him & sent him away. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus turned to them & said, "Which of you doesn't work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don't you rush to get him out?" <sup>6</sup> Again they could not answer.

<sup>7</sup> When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honour near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honour. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? <sup>9</sup> The host will come & say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, & you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! <sup>10</sup> "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come & say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honoured in front of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, & those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, & rich neighbours. For they will invite you back, & that will be your only reward. <sup>13</sup> Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, & the blind. <sup>14</sup> Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. Is there a difference between showing love to a Christian brother/sister & showing love to a neighbour?
2. How do things like custom, tradition, busy-ness, or habit interfere with showing expansive generous hospitality?

**THE MESSAGE:** *VIBRANT LIVING: VIBRANT RELATIONSHIPS***OFFERING SONG:** Hear our Praises**PRAYERS:****THE COMMUNION:***The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during Communion:**VIDEO – THE LORD IS BY MY SIDE (CityAlight)**CCL Licence 384660**GO IN HIS POWER***THE BLESSING:****(Name), † child of God...****May the love of Christ flow into all your relationships.****Amen.****ANNOUNCEMENTS:****SONG:** Blessed Assurance*SHOW HIS LOVE*