

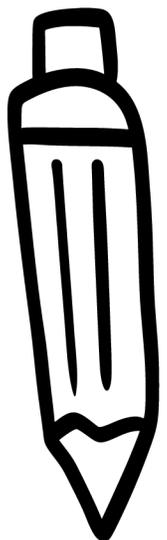
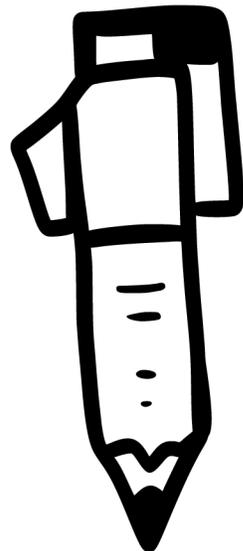
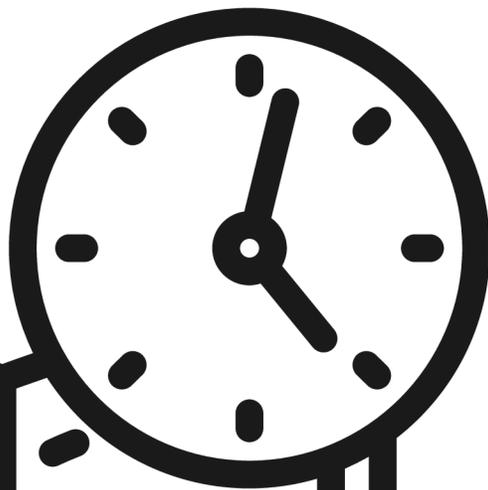
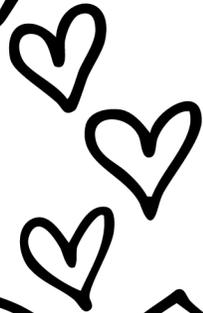


Journey

THE BIBLE WITH ME

Katie Swank

1 JOHN 1



The Incarnation of the Word of Life

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4 We write this to make our joy complete.

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

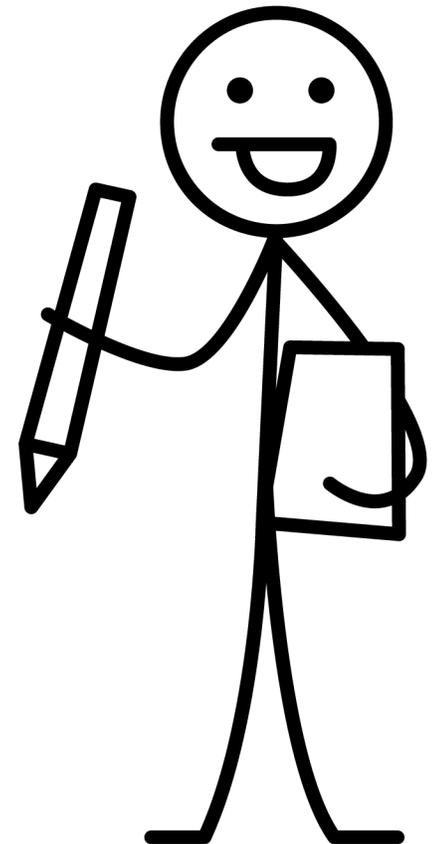
9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Key Details About 1 John

1 JOHN 1

- Date: Most scholars place the composition between A.D. 85 and 95, late in the 1st century. It was written after the Gospel of John.
- Author: Though anonymous, tradition unanimously attributes it to John the Apostle, who writes as an eyewitness to Jesus' life.
- Audience: The letter was likely a circular letter intended for a network of churches in the province of Asia (around Ephesus), where John ministered in his later years.
- Purpose: It was written to combat false teachers (an early form of Gnosticism) who denied the humanity of Jesus, and to provide assurance of eternal life to believers.
- Key Themes: Emphasis on light versus darkness, the necessity of love for one another, and the reality of the incarnation (Jesus in the flesh)



How?

According to GotQuestions.org, false teachers are identified by testing their doctrine against Scripture, observing their fruit (lifestyle/character), and verifying their message about Jesus. Common red flags include denying Jesus' divinity, preaching a works-based gospel, promoting greed/prosperity, and displaying pride or immorality. They often masquerade as righteous, making it essential to rely on biblical knowledge for detection.



Distorted Theology: They teach an incomplete or distorted gospel, often denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. They might add to or subtract from Scripture to align with their own agendas.

Wrong View of Jesus: Any teacher who denies that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God, or who denies His deity, is a false teacher.

Greed and Materialism: False teachers often show signs of extreme greed, using their platform to gain money and popularity, often promising prosperity over spiritual health.

Bad "Fruit": They may appear godly on the surface but are characterized by pride, rebellion, and immoral behavior behind the scenes.

Lack of Biblical Focus: Their teachings often deviate from the whole counsel of God, often focusing on self-centered, emotional, or politically charged messages rather than studying God's Word.

Who?

John the Beloved, or the "Beloved Disciple," is traditionally identified as John the Apostle, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, author of the Gospel of John, three epistles, and Revelation. Known for his close, intimate friendship with Jesus, he was a fisherman who, along with his brother James, was nicknamed a "Son of Thunder"



- *The "Beloved Disciple": In his Gospel, John refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23, 21:20), which is viewed as a sign of humility and his closeness to Jesus rather than arrogance.*
- *Inner Circle: He was part of Jesus' inner circle (along with Peter and James) and witnessed exclusive events like the Transfiguration and the agony in Gethsemane.*
- *Crucial Roles: He rested on Jesus' breast at the Last Supper and was the only disciple present at the Crucifixion, where Jesus entrusted him with the care of his mother, Mary.*
- *Life & Death: He is believed to be the only apostle to die of old age (approx. 100 AD) after being exiled to the island of Patmos.*
- *Writings: Credited with writing five New Testament books (Gospel of John, 1-3 John, and Revelation).*
- *Titles: John the Apostle, John the Evangelist, and in Eastern traditions, John the Theologian.*

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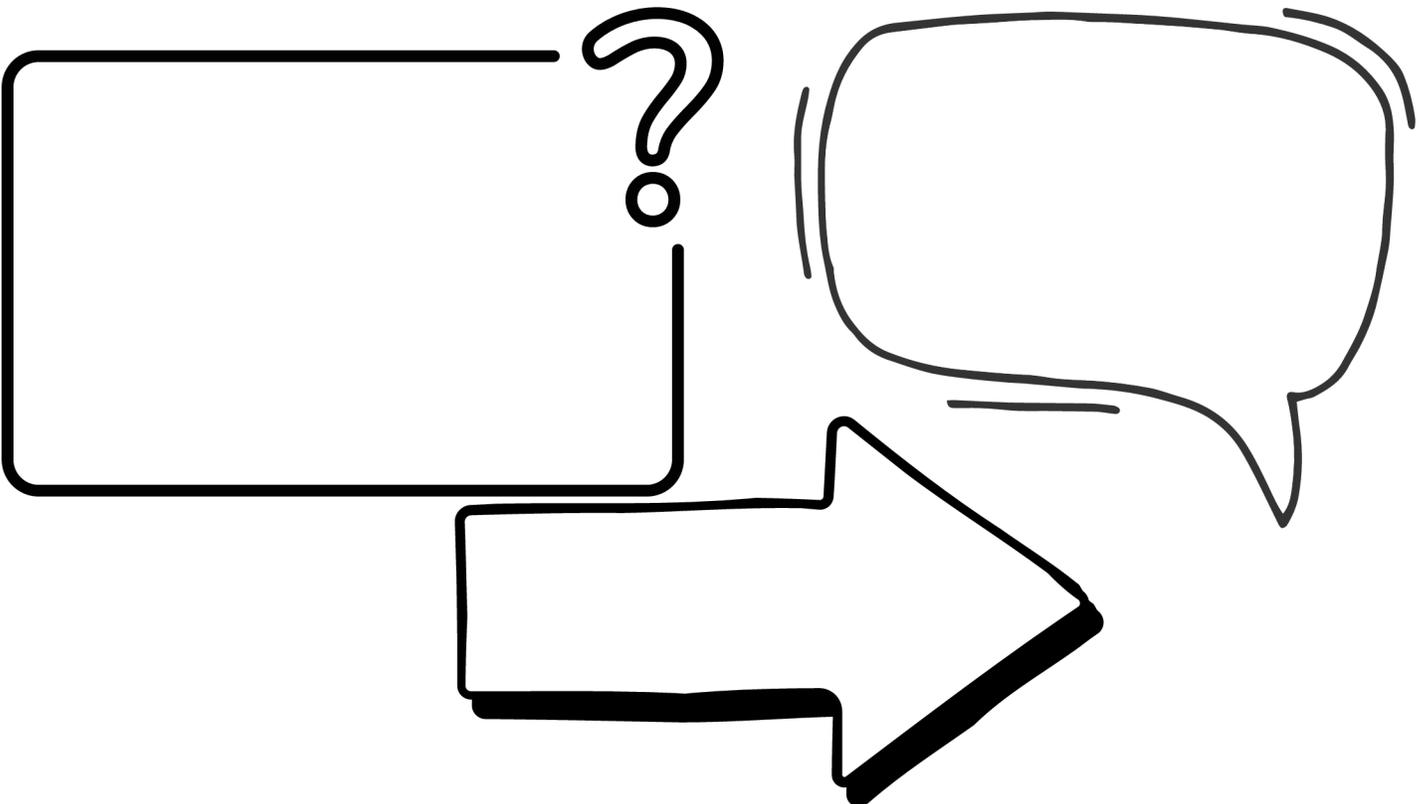
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

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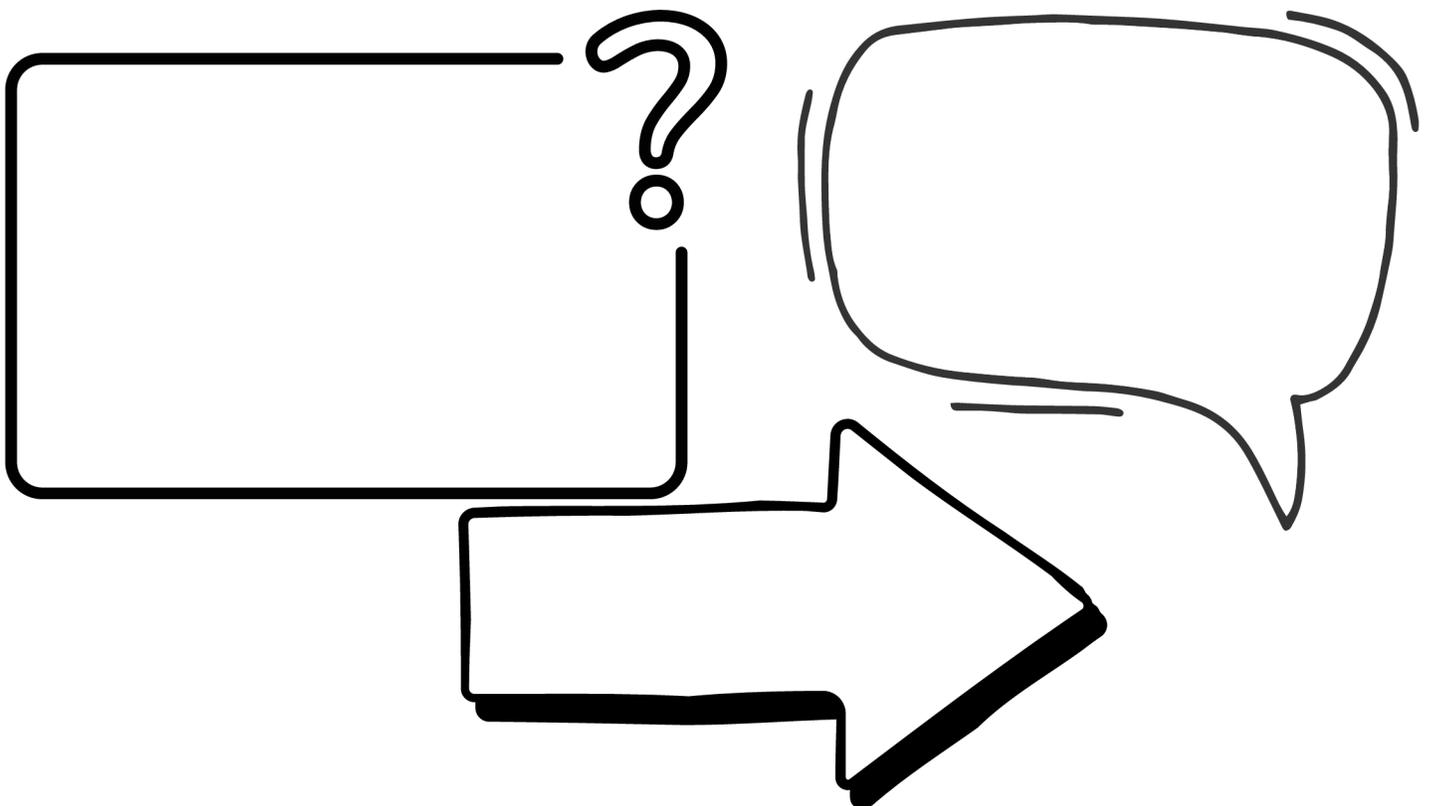
10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:1 declares that Jesus (the "Word of life") is eternal, existing from the beginning, and was physically witnessed, heard, and touched by the apostles. John emphasizes the reality of the incarnation—God in the flesh—to combat false teachings, asserting that Jesus is the tangible, divine Savior

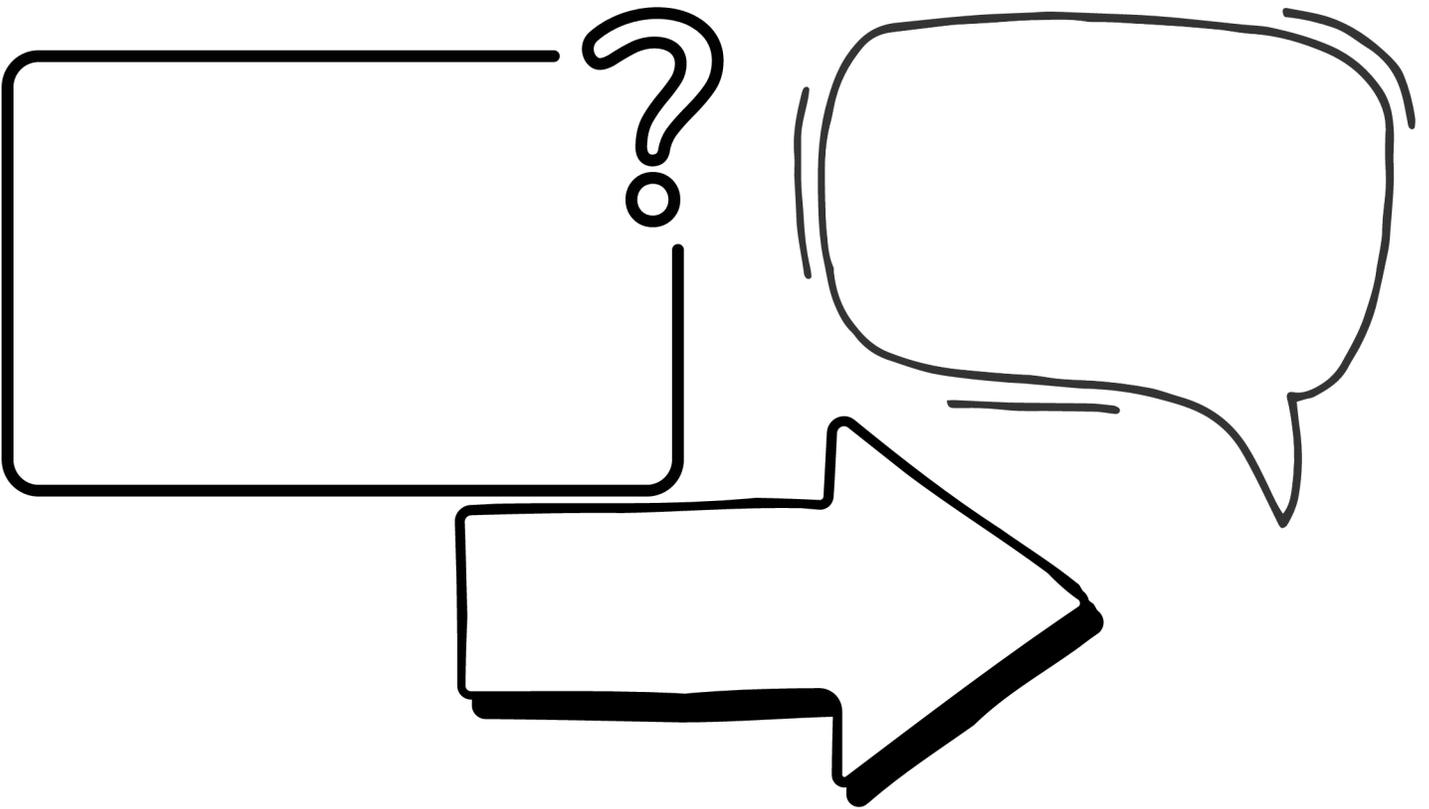


1 John 1:2 emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the eternal, tangible manifestation of God, whom the apostles personally witnessed. It confirms Jesus's pre-existence with the Father and His human incarnation, acting as the foundation for Christian fellowship and eternal life. It highlights that Jesus is not just a concept, but a historical, relatable person.

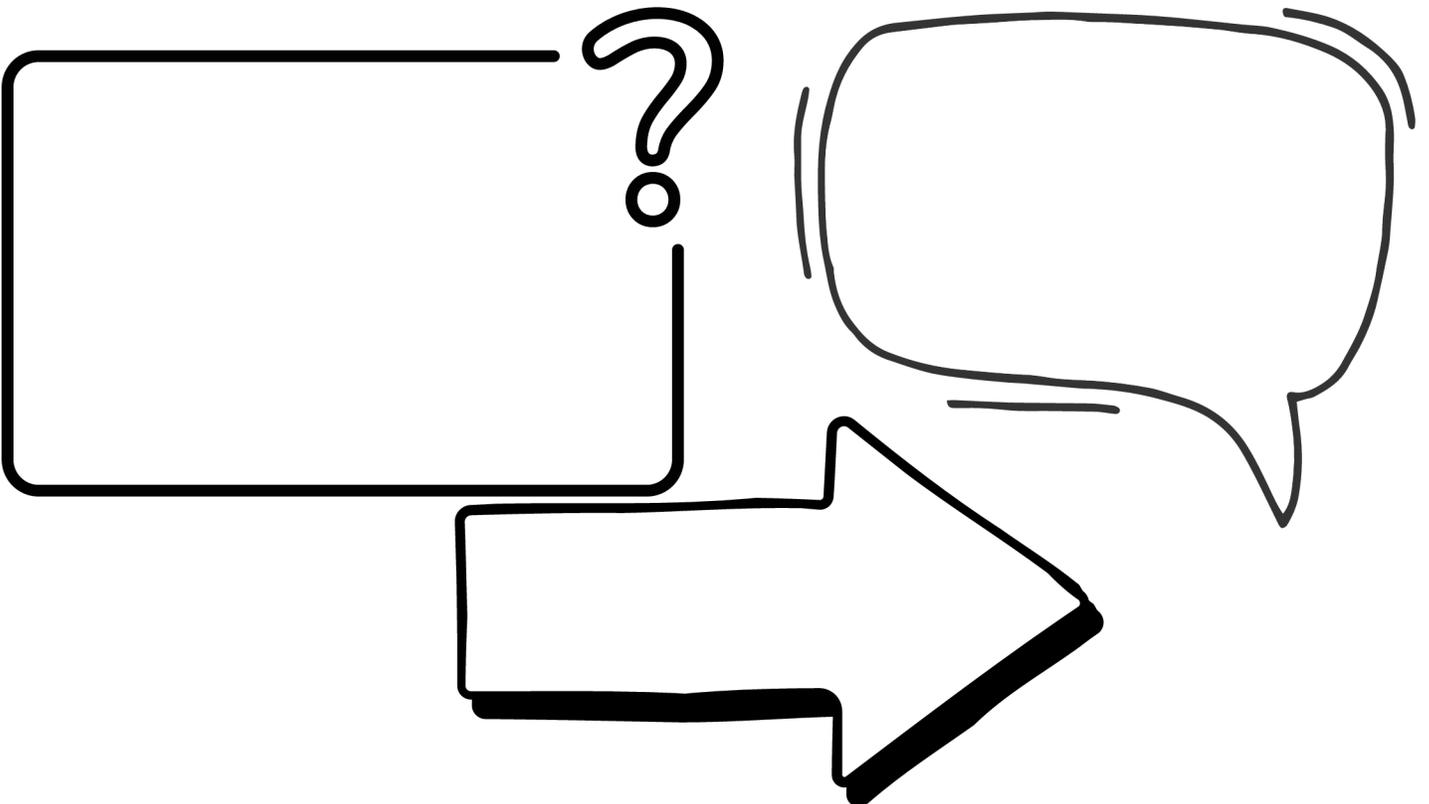
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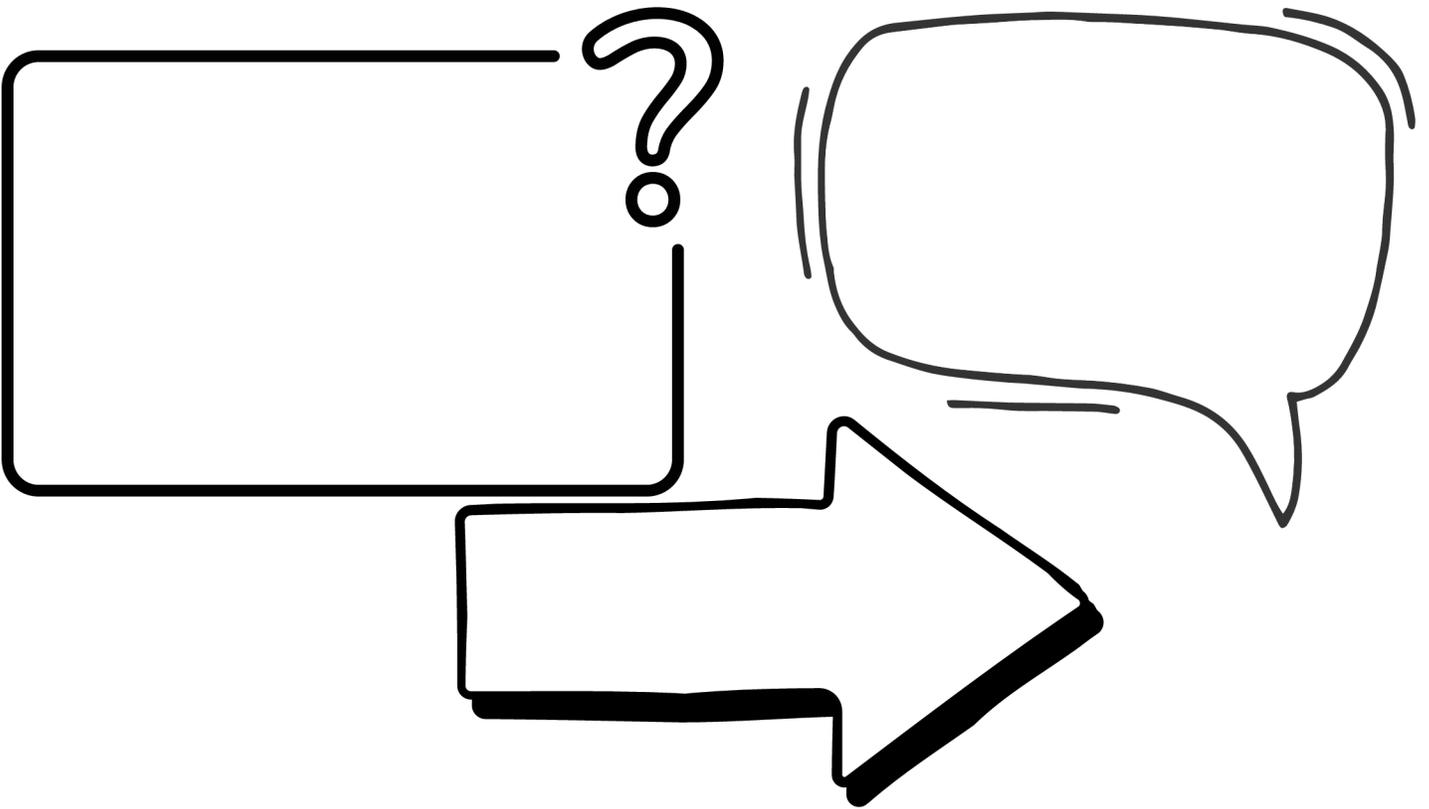
1 John 1:3 declares that the apostles proclaimed the gospel so believers could share in fellowship with them, which is rooted in a deeper, shared fellowship with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. This verse emphasizes that true spiritual partnership is centered on a living relationship with the Father and Son, not just other believers.



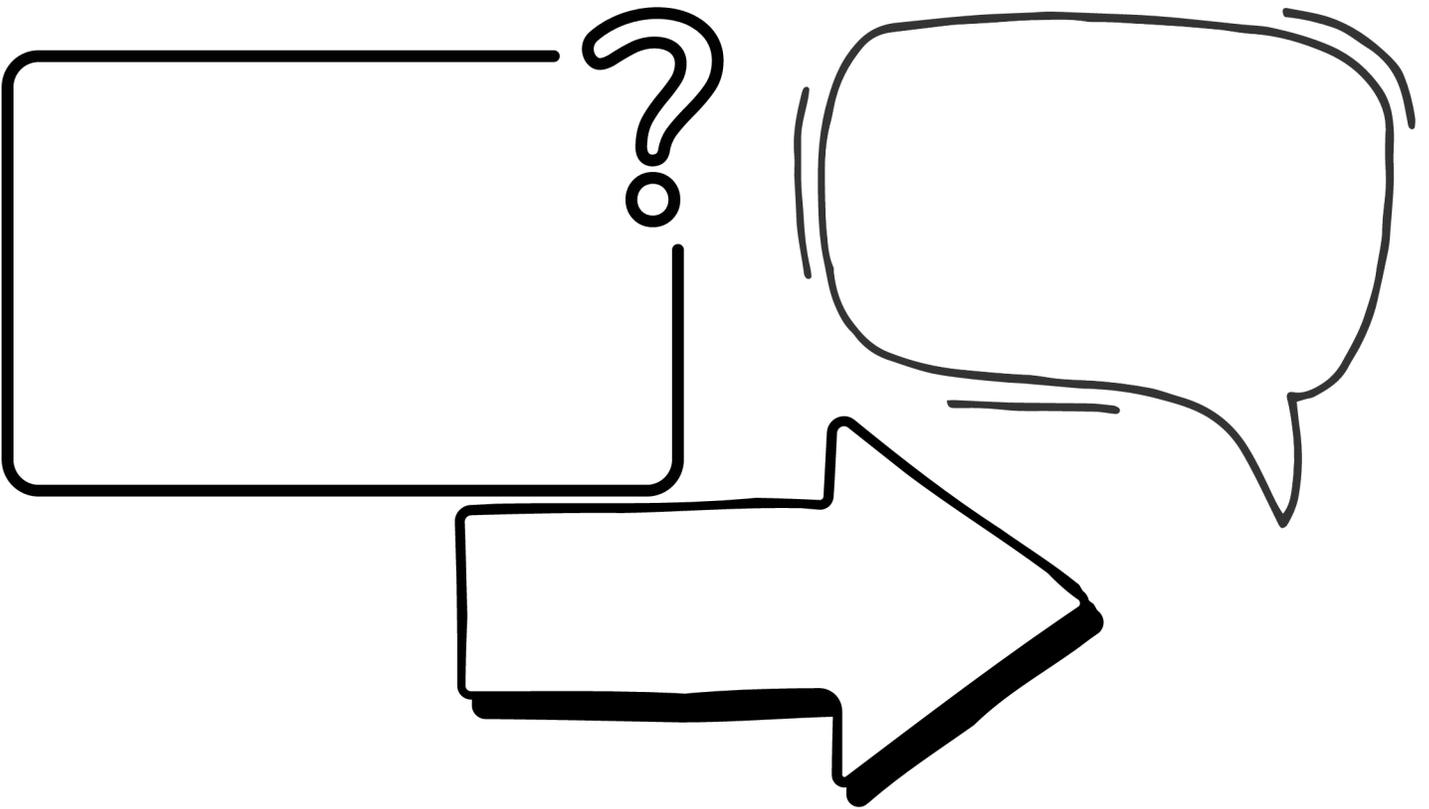
1 John 1:4 states, "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full," emphasizing that the purpose of proclaiming the eyewitness testimony of Jesus (the "Word of Life") is to bring believers into fellowship with God, resulting in complete, spiritual joy. This joy stems from a secure relationship with Christ



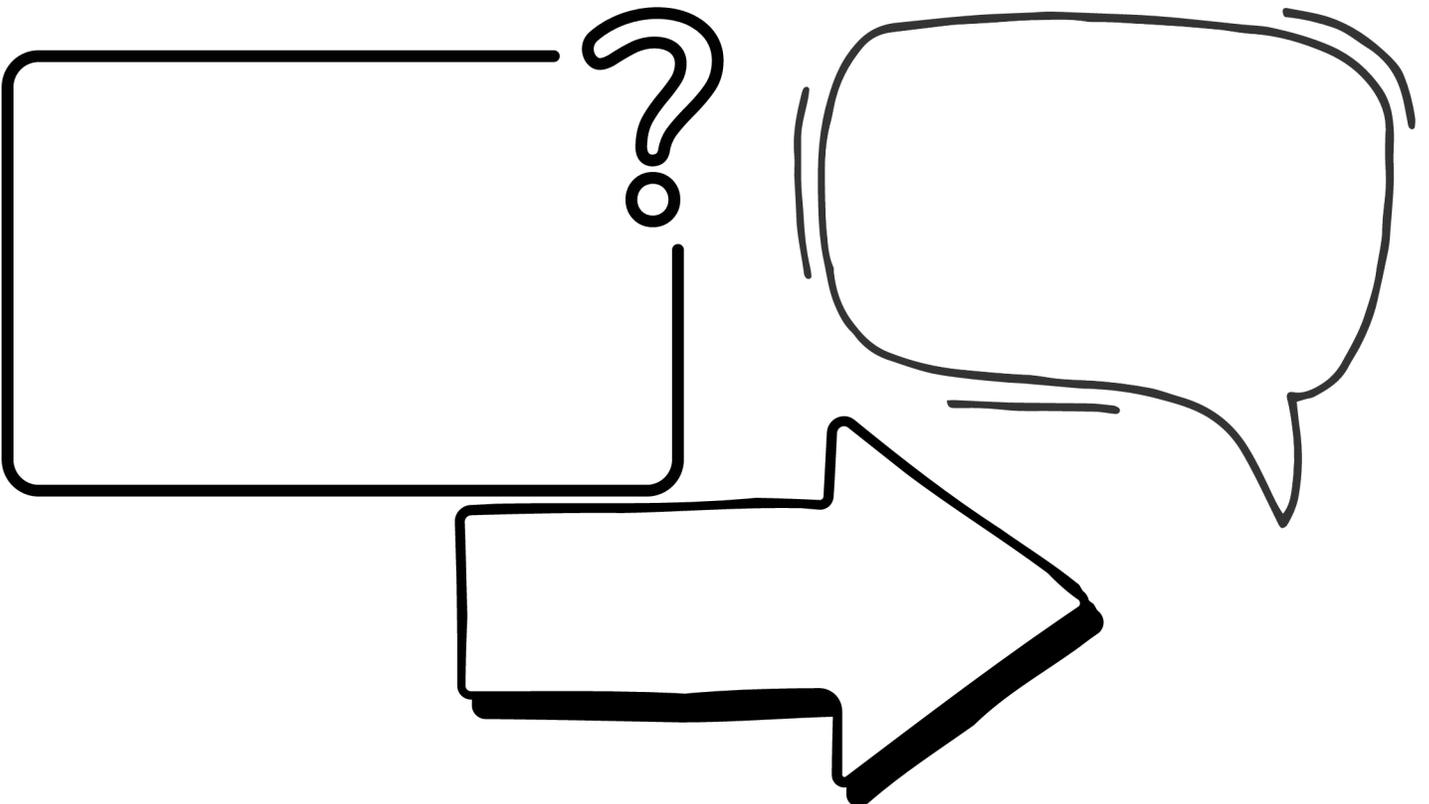
1 John 1:5 states, "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all" (NIV). It means God is absolutely holy, pure, and truthful, with zero capacity for sin, error, or evil. It defines God's character as the standard for light (truth/holiness) versus darkness (sin/ignorance)



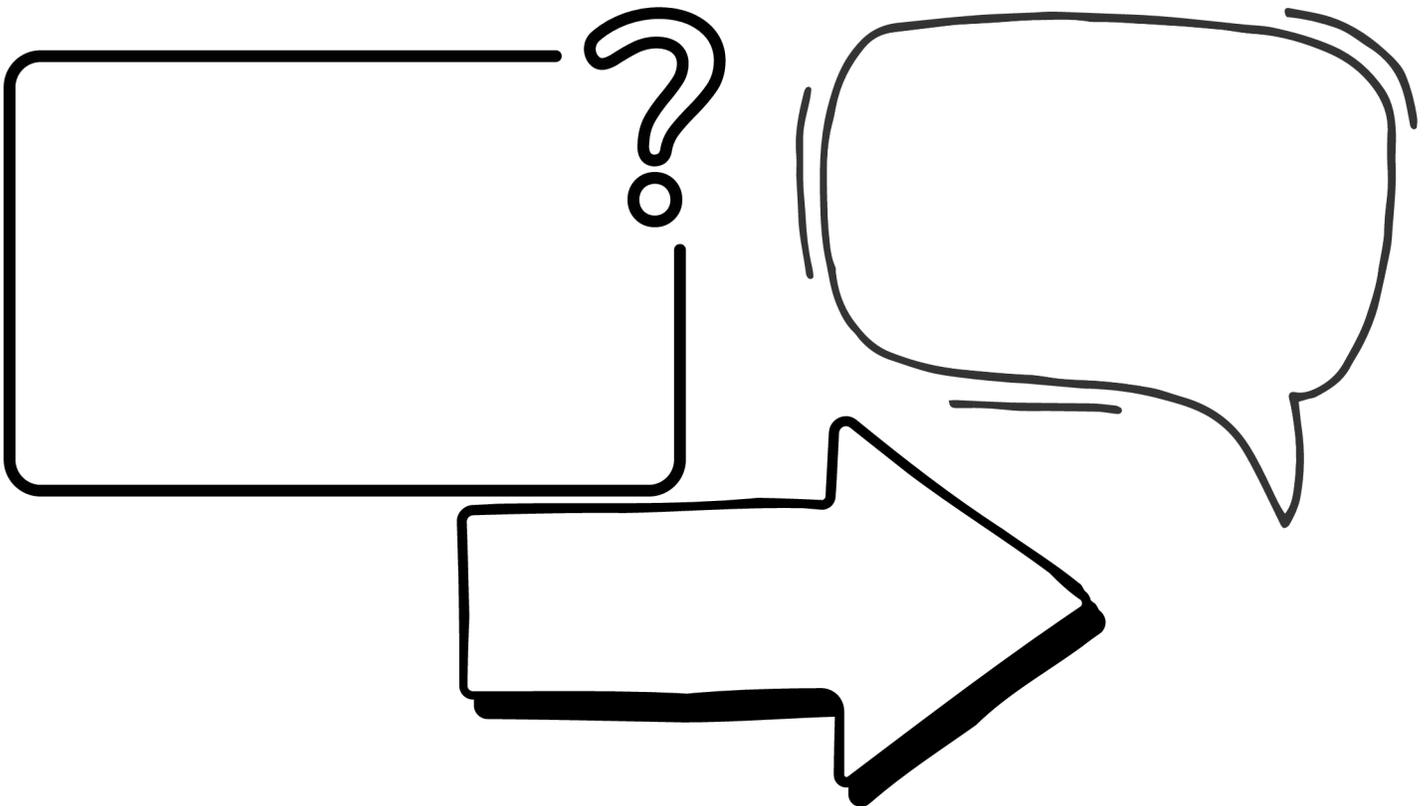
1 John 1:6 states, "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth" (NIV). It means claiming a relationship with God while habitually living in sin is a hypocritical falsehood, as 1 John 1:5 establishes that God is pure light with no darkness.



1 John 1:7 ("...if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus... cleanses us from all sin") means that believers who live openly, truthfully, and obediently before God enjoy deep fellowship with other Christians and experience continuous cleansing from sin.

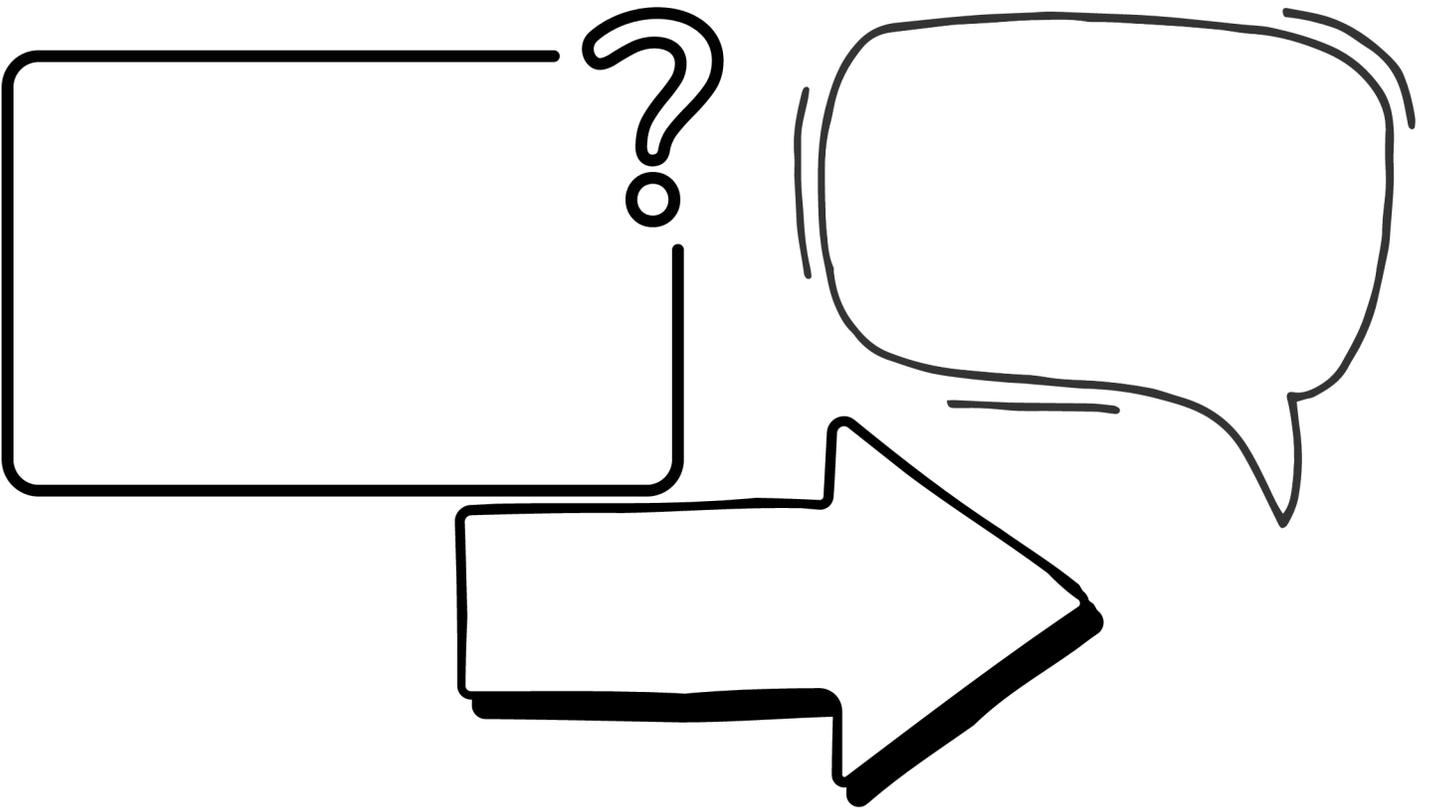


1 John 1:8 states, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (NKJV). It means all humans possess a sinful nature and committing acts of sin is a reality, making claims of sinless perfection self-deception and a denial of truth. It calls for humility, acknowledging our need for God's grace

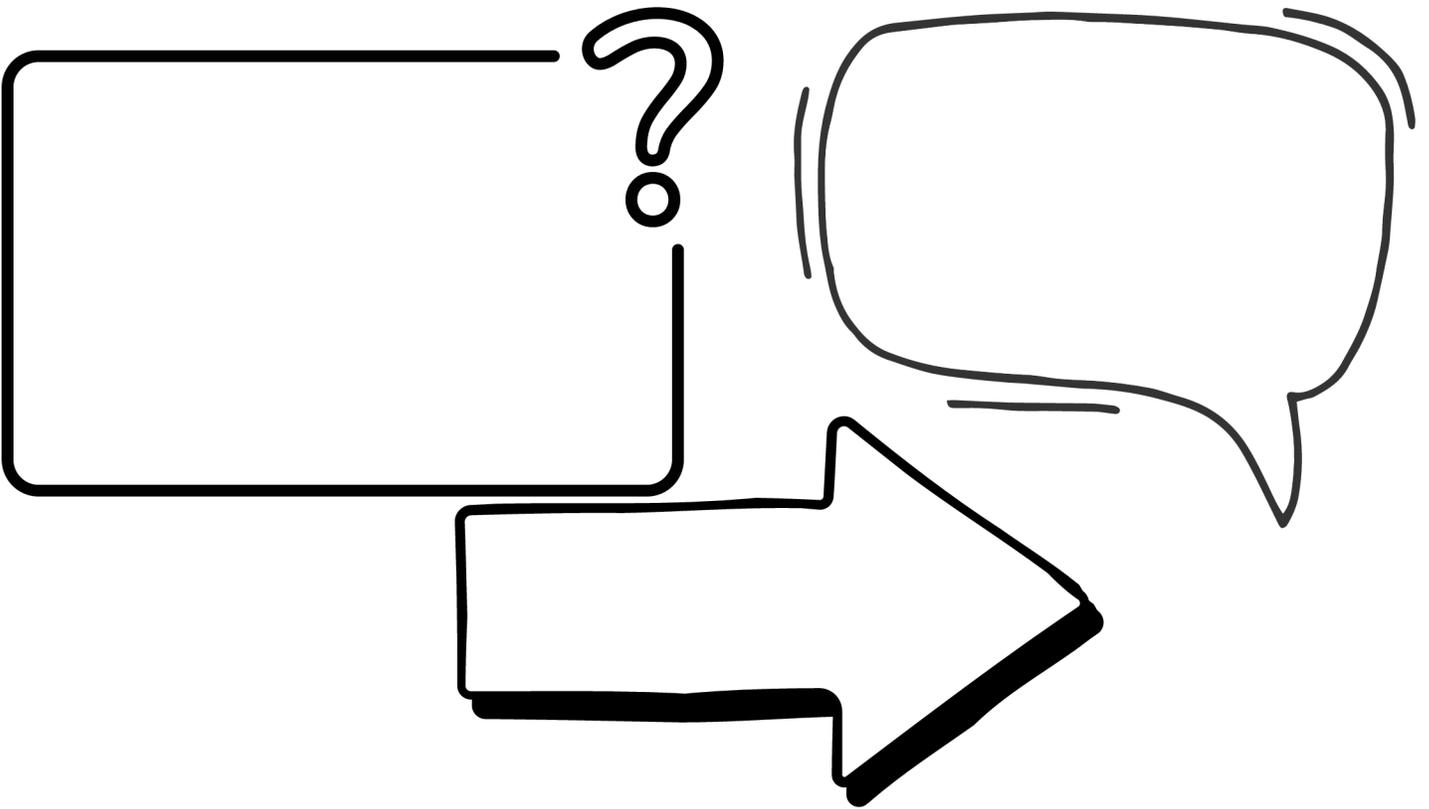


1 John 1:9 states, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." It means that when believers honestly admit and agree with God regarding their sins, He promises immediate forgiveness and spiritual cleansing based on Christ's finished work. This verse emphasizes restoring fellowship rather than losing salvation

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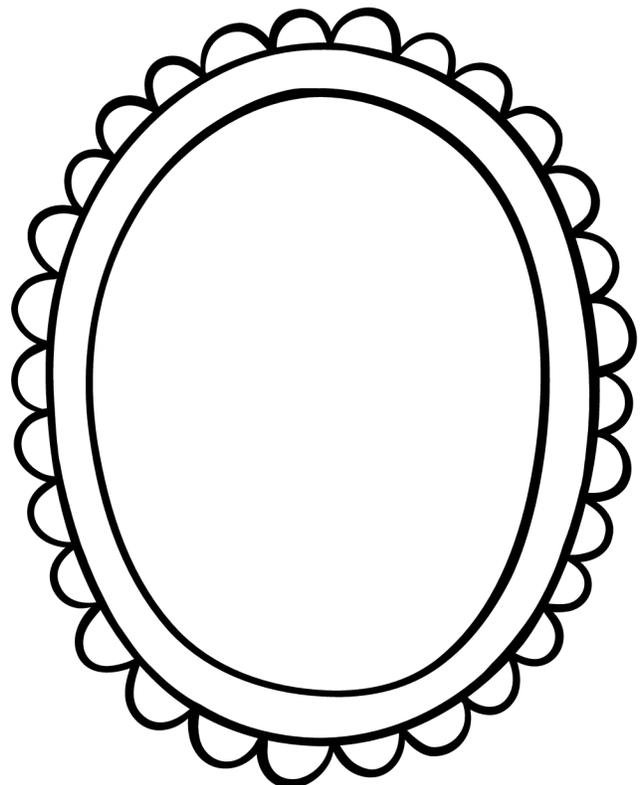
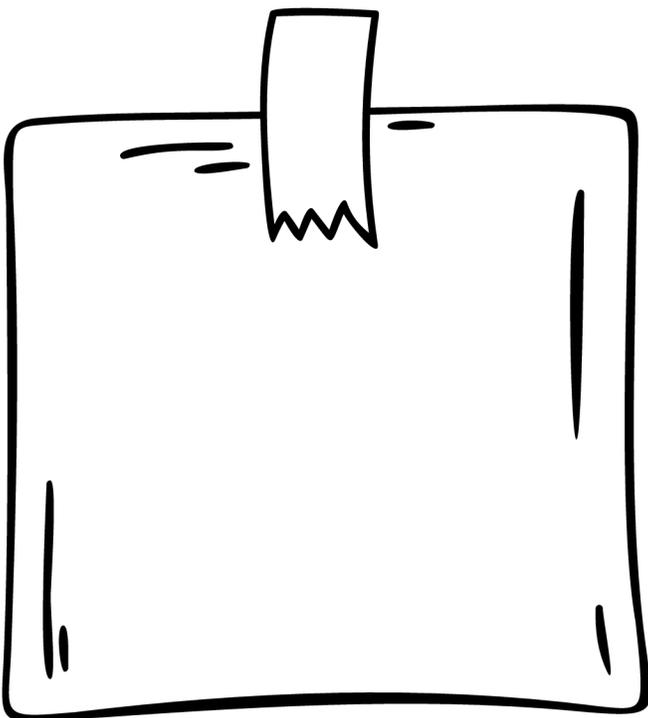


1 John 1:10 states, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us" (NKJV). It means that denying our sinful nature or actions is a form of self-deception that directly contradicts God's truth, essentially calling God a liar



Practical Applications of 1 John 1:

- Practice Daily Confession (v. 9): Make it a habit to bring your faults to God immediately. 1 John 1:9 promises that He is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This removes the burden of guilt.
- Live in "The Light" (v. 5-7): Walking in the light means living openly with God and others, without secret sins or hypocrisy. In practical terms, this is acting with integrity in your work, relationships, and private life, rather than pretending to be perfect.
- Stop Defending Your Sin (v. 8, 10): Acknowledge that you are not sinless. Admitting you need God's grace, rather than claiming you have not sinned, keeps you from self-deception and keeps your relationship with God real.
- Cultivate Fellowship (v. 3): Build intentional, deep relationships with other believers. Sharing your life with others who follow Christ strengthens your own walk and makes your joy complete.
- Trust in the Real Jesus (v. 1-2): Ground your faith in the historical reality of Jesus (the "Word of life" who was physically seen and touched), rather than cultural or emotional, ever-changing ideas of spirituality.



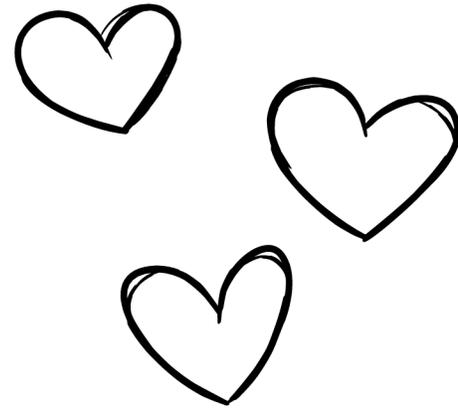
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Live in "The Light" (v. 5-7):



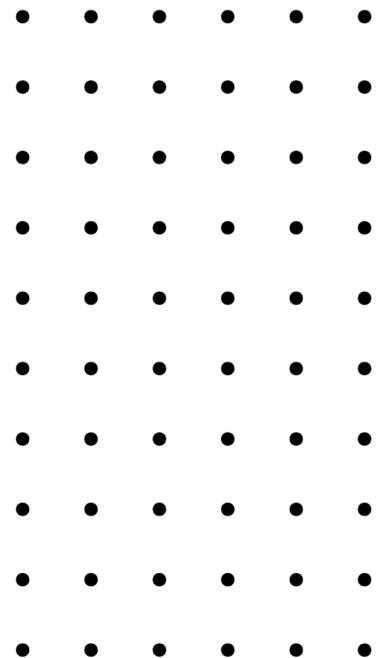
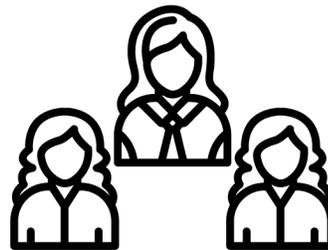
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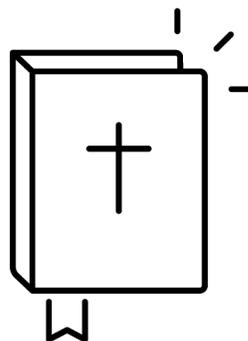
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