



## Worship and Prayer

### **BIG IDEA**

“When men cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in everything.”

-G.K. Chesterton

### **GROUP OPENER**

How do you identify people who are spiritually searching?

What are things they engage with or things they say in today's cultural climate?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Read 1 John 4:1-21. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

January 5  
WEEKEND

### **ACTION STEPS**

*I will statement...*

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, “I Will \_\_\_\_\_”. Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your “I Will” statement with the group.

### **As a Group**

The current culture seems to be more open to spiritual ideas than it has in a long time. Share signs you have seen of people's openness to any kind of spirituality.

### **Questions:**

Why is it popular to say that all spirituality leads to the same place?

What do you think is behind spiritual curiosity?

Why is it important for us to be spiritually discerning?

John spends a good bit of time encouraging his readers to trust in God's love and compares that to the viewpoint of the world. Why do you think there is a contrast between the two?

John also spends time centering his focus on the love of God through Jesus. Spend some time discussing why that may be.

### **On Your Own**

Consider the following quote:

“If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to get wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them.”

-C.S. Lewis

How can you help others find what they are looking for?

