

UNSHAKEABLE: WHEN FAITH FEELS FRAGILE

1 JOHN 1

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Unshakeable faith is rooted in God's unchanging truth. We need to look to Jesus!

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Faith can be shaken, but you don't have to sink. What should you do when faith feels fragile? What is the difference between feelings of shaking and sinking?

1 John was written to give assurance to believers (1 John 5:13). Pastor Greg said, "Biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high in the church today." How does living Harvest's Mission Statement, "Knowing God and Making Him Known," help us fight against biblical illiteracy?

1 John can be divided into three sections: God is light (1:1–2:2), God is love (2:3–4:21), and God is life (5:1–21). John wrote to the third generation of the church, showing the importance of sharing God's truth with the next generation. In a time when truth is often distorted and values are constantly shifting, this new series will anchor us in what is real, lasting, and unchanging. Pastor Greg reminded us that in Jesus, we can stand firm because we serve an unshakeable God.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 1:1-4

To have unshakeable faith, you need to look to Jesus (v.1-2). How did John describe his experience of seeing Jesus (John 1:14-16)?

When you look to Jesus, your life will be filled with joy (v.4). In what way does sin promise joy but always produce sorrow? How can you look to Jesus today and be filled with joy (1 Peter 1:8-9)?

When you find something wonderful, you want to share it (v.3). John wanted others to experience the joy he had. In a world of recommendations and reviews, why is the best kind of witness the overflow of a Christ-filled life?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 1:5-10

The obstacle to joy is unconfessed sin (v.5-7). Pastor Greg said, "God's light does not expose you to shame you. It exposes you to heal you." How have you learned to make this distinction when you repent of sin?

The way to be forgiven of your sin is to confess it (v.8-10). What does it mean to confess sin to God (Psalm 51:1-4)? How can we excuse or minimize sin, preventing us from true confession?

Living in the light does not mean perfection, but *transparency*. What is the difference between repenting of sin and living in sin? How does obedience prove real faith?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Read Hebrews 8:12. Pastor Greg said, "We should not choose to remember what God has chosen to forget." How does remembering who God is—*light* (1 John 1:5), *love* (1 John 4:8), *life* (1 John 5:12)—help you look to your Savior rather than to your sin?

It is often observed, "Sin always takes you further than you wanted to go, keeps you longer than you wanted to stay, and costs you more than you wanted to pay." But as Pastor Greg said, "You'll find that His mercy is greater than your mess. His grace is deeper than your guilt." How have you experienced the realities of both statements? In Christ, how is your faith unshakeable?

PRAYER

Give thanks for unshakeable faith in God's unchanging truth. Pray for renewed fellowship and joy as you walk in the light. Confess your sins and trust in what Christ has done for you. Look to Jesus!