

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

New Testament Lesson #194

John was one of Jesus' 12 apostles. John, along with his brother James, spent a couple of years traveling with Jesus. He learned much from Jesus, and he spent the remainder of his life dedicated to helping others learn about Jesus, and to teach them the things that Jesus had taught him. This is John's first letter or epistle he writes to a group of believers. It contains some helpful information for those who believe in Jesus and want to follow his example.

An important lesson for us to understand is that "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). You never have to be concerned with God doing something wrong. He will not be associated with darkness or things resulting from sin. God is pure and righteous, and in that sense He is light.

If we believe in God, then it is important that we also seek to do what is right. Doing what is right is the same as saying we walk in the light. John says it this way: "If we claim to have fellowship with him (God) yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 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" (1 John 1:6-7).

Unfortunately at times we do sin. When we sin, we are no longer figuratively walking in the light, but walking in the darkness associated with sin. Yet, there is good news for us in Jesus! John is encouraging his readers to walk in the light so that they don't sin. However, he tells them, "if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 2:1-2).

After sharing that good news, John goes on to show how Jesus is a good example to follow. In fact, if a person says he is a follower of Jesus (like a disciple), he should behave like Jesus did. John writes: "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6). In fact, John stresses that if someone is going to claim that they "know" Jesus, there is a simple test to see if it is really true. John says: "We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4).

Let us listen to the advice that John gives us. God is light, and Jesus, as His Son, gives us the example of how to walk in God's light. As God's children, we too can walk in the light and follow in Jesus' footsteps.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- In John's gospel, he records a time when Jesus was teaching in the Temple at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. It is approximately six months before Jesus would be crucified. Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).
- In Psalm 119 it talks about God's word, the Bible. In Psalm 119:105 it says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." If we want to walk in the light like Jesus, we need to allow the Bible to direct the steps we take.
- The apostle Paul uses similar imagery of light and darkness when encouraging the believers in the town of Ephesus. Now that believers are in Jesus, they are no longer living in their past darkness. He writes: "for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:8-11).

ANSWER KEY:

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

– 1 John 1:6

"which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched ..." – 1 John:1-2

If we want to have a life with Jesus in it,
we need to walk in the light and not in the darkness.



Write the words on the footprints in the correct order.

Footprints containing words and numbers:

- 7 with, 4 to, 13 darkness, do 17, 8 Him, we 2
- live 19, 10 walk, truth. 22, 1 If, by 20, lie 15
- 3 claim, and 16, 12 the, 1:6 24, 11 in, 1 John 23
- yet 9, 21 the, fellowship 6, 14 we, not 18, 5 have

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Fill in the vowels – 8 - a's 14 - e's 4 - i's 5 - o's 3 - u's



Believe in the Word of Life which God
has given us from the beginning ...

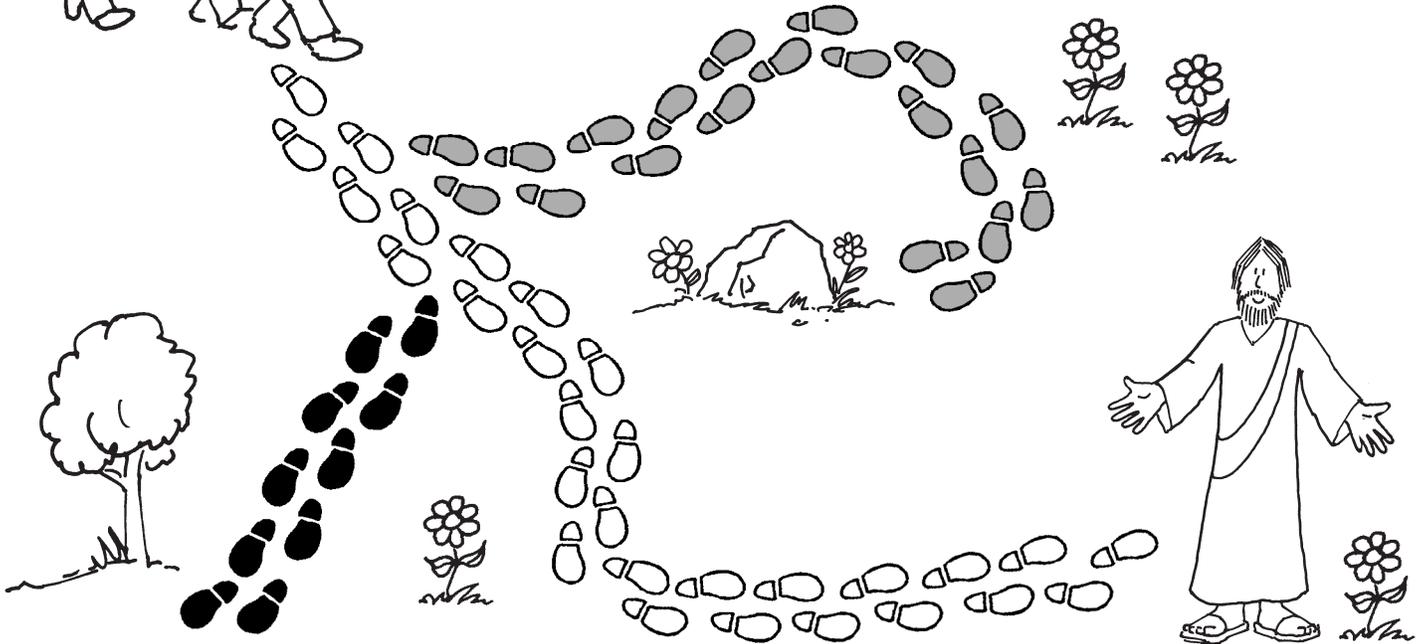
“ wh__ch w__ h__v__ h__rd, wh__ch w__ h__v__ s__n
w__th __r __y__s, wh__ch w__ h__v__ l__k__d __t
__nd __r h__nds h__v__ t__ch__d ...” – 1 John:1-2

Name _____

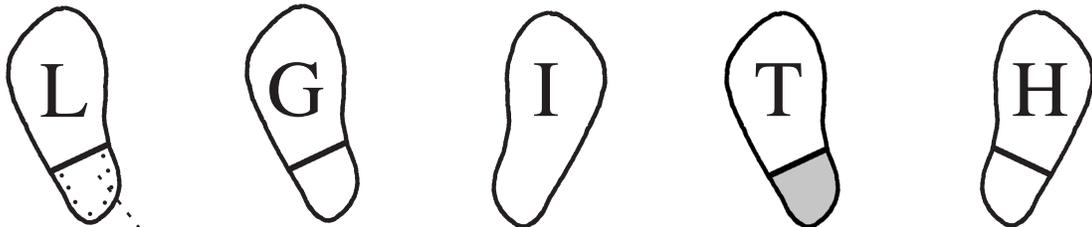
If you want to have a life with Jesus in it,
 you need to walk in the light not in the darkness.



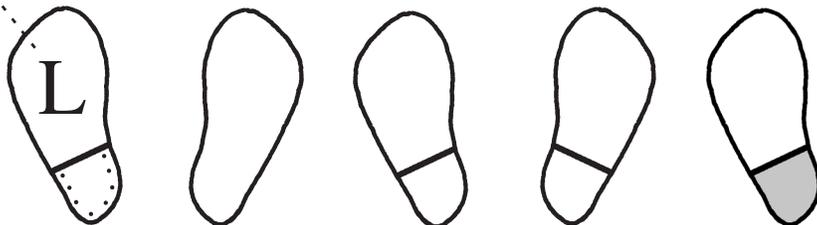
Follow the  to get to Jesus.



Match the footprints. Write the letters.



Remember to
 walk in the ...



Name _____