**BCM Bible Study February 11-12, 2015**

**1 John 4**

**1 John 4:1-6** – Genuine Christians will avoid false teachers and will recognize that true teachers posses the Spirit of God and preach Jesus as the risen Lord.

1. Do you think false prophets are still a problem in the church? How can we properly identify them? When is it appropriate to call them out?
2. Why is the question “who is Jesus” at the heart of Christianity? How does this question help us wade through religion in a pluralistic society?
3. What are some examples of “Jesus-plus” or “Bible-plus” theologies that characterize false teaching? How can we slide into these ways of thinking?
4. In what was is the Spirit inside the Christian greater than the spirit who is in the world? How can it be true that Christians have already conquered evil spirits?
5. Who or what are you listening to that you sense is drawing you away from God’s truth? What deliberate purposeful step can you take to change this?
6. What do you think is the difference between being in the world and of the world?
7. Describe a situation where you distinctly felt different from the world and its desires.

**1 John 4:7-12** - The Father of Jesus is the God of Love, whose love is manifested in the sending of Christ and is perfected in the love displayed among His people.

1. Why is it important to remember that God sent Jesus knowing that He would die? What does this tell us about Jesus’ ministry?
2. How would you define propitiation (V9-10: God provided the sacrifice to appease His wrath) to a group of your peers? What does it tell us about God? About man? Where do we see these themes throughout the rest of scripture?
3. What would Christian love look like if Christ’s example was truly followed? How can you follow the example of love He displayed on the cross?
4. If we love one another, his love is made complete/perfect in us. What does this mean? Have you ever seen this and felt like you were seeing God?

**1 John 4:13-21** – God’s love in His people gives them assurance of His presence, confidence awaiting judgment, and power to reflect His character in the world.

1. How has your increasing love for God increased your understanding of God’s love for you?
2. Think of one life changing choice you’ve made since becoming a believer in Jesus. How did knowing Jesus affect that decision?
3. How do we have confidence when we face judgment?
4. Why can’t fear and love coexist? Or, why does love cast out fear? What does fear reveal about our relationship with God?
5. Vs 20 states that as we love God, we must therefore also love our brother and our sister. Why/how does this relationship exist? What does loving your brother/sister mean to you in your life? How do you live out this command?