Discussion Starter – Can you tell if someone is a Christian just by spending time with him or her? What characteristic traits does a Christian demonstrate? Can this be faked?

How do I know that I know Jesus?
(Self-examination, Proper Ministry, Proper Fellowship -Verses 6-9)

- What does abiding in Christ mean? Is it possible to know Christ and not follow him?

- What is Satan's purpose? What provision does God make for Satan's defeat?

- What does the word "seed" refer to in verse 9? What does "born of God" mean? How does this relate to self-examination?

- What is "relational evangelism"? How do you live this out? What are the characteristics of a person exhibiting "relational evangelism"? (See Colossians 4:5-6.)

- How did your relationships change once you became a believer? Compare your relationships with believers –vs- non-believers.

- Do you behave differently with your non-believing friends than with your believing friends? What does being "unequally yoked mean"? What are examples of being "unequally yoked"? (See 1 Corinthians 6:14-18.)

- Why is being unequally yoked dangerous? Why is it important to guard our hearts and minds? How do unhealthy relationships affect you? (See 1 Corinthians 15:33-34.)

Habitual Sin (Verse 6)

- Can we live a sin free life? What is a better translation for the word "sin" in verse 6? Is John saying that we are required to live a sin free life?

- Compare and contrast "habitual sin" –vs- "habitual righteousness". How does the "seed" in verse 9 help us with this?

Christian Fellowship (Verses 16-19)

- What is a gospel centered community? Why do we enjoy this? How does this provide support during difficult times in our lives?

- Who are the brethren? How does John command us to treat the brethren in verse 18?

- What does "Love" mean in these verses?

- What does loving someone in this sense require?

- Provide examples of love you have received from the brethren.