



# Sermon Discussion Guide

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## Greater Love: Certainty

1 John 1:1-4

Ray Cortese, August 15 & 16, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 1:1-4. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Is it possible to have certainty that you are a Christian? When did you “know for certain” that you are a Christian?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, “What was the sermon about?” what would you have said?

#### THE APOLOGETIC OF CHRISTIANITY

- 3 Why is inaccurate or misleading to describe belief in Jesus as a “leap of faith”? How does being an atheist require more faith than being a Christian?
- 4 One of the ways that people try to dismiss Christianity is by consigning it to the realm of subjective experience and personal preference. How do you see this played out in our culture today?

- 5 Ray said, “It is impossible to live consistent with the belief that there is no God.” Why is that true?
- 6 How would you complete the following sentence:

I trust the Bible more than I trust \_\_\_\_\_.

#### THE AMAZING OF CHRISTIANITY

- 7 In your own words, why was it necessary for Jesus to come into the world?
- 8 Your eternity depends on the performance of Jesus and not your performance. Have you always believed that to be true? How does believing it give you certainty that you otherwise would not possess?
- 9 Have the following phrases ever described you?

“I’m not so messed up that I can’t pull it together.”

or

“Leave me alone – I can do it myself!”

#### THE AIM OF CHRISTIANITY

- 10 What is the difference between doing life with God versus viewing him as a heavenly concierge?
- 11 When was the last time you felt or sensed, “God is with me”?
- 12 God and the church are a package deal – the church is family. What keeps you from engaging relationally with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Have you ever experienced sweet fellowship and community like the kind envisioned in the New Testament?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?