

**Sermon Based Study Questions for 1.4.2015 Sermon**  
**Starting Out Right**  
**1 John 2:6**

With each New Year we have the privilege of starting out right. Over time, we all tend to wander off track. So a fresh start can be really helpful. It helps us re-focus, recalibrate and move forward rejuvenated. As we follow Jesus into this New Year, we would be wise to start out right in a few key areas...

Ice Breaker Questions – (choose one to answer/ask)

- Did you make any New Year's resolutions for yourself?  
Physically? Spiritually? Relationally?
- Did you accomplish any of the goals you had planned for yourself in 2014?

Opening Questions

- Is there anything from Sunday's sermon that really stood out, made an impression, challenged or confused you?
- As you think of staying "One Step Behind Jesus", what does that mean to you?
- What is the hardest part about staying one step behind Jesus? The easiest?
- Does developing MORE religious habits (like bible reading, prayer, fasting, silence, rest, etc.) help or hurt us in following Jesus? How?
- Does making your current habits more excellent and not messing up help or hurt us in following Jesus? How?
- Which habits or disciplines of the Christian faith, are absolutely essential? Which ones are more optional?
- What are some practical ways you can live out the vision of Loving Jesus?
- What are some practical ways you can live out the vision of Growing Together?
- What are some practical ways you can live out the vision of Serving our World?
- Which of these vision pieces is easiest for you to live out? Hardest?

*Growing Together*

## Bible Study

Read 1 John 2:5b-6

- What is the “this” that John is referring to in verse 5?
- What does it mean to be “in Him”?
- What does it mean to “abide” in something?
- How does one confirm what he says he believes about following Jesus?
- Why does John use the language of “walking” to describe a life with Jesus?
- What exactly does it mean, practically, to walk in the same way that Jesus walked?

## Application

- Take an inventory of your spiritual life and determine where you need to grow the most: Loving Jesus, Growing Together, Serving our World.
- Commit or re-commit to seeking out one way to grow this year in each of the areas.
- Pray and ask Jesus for help to not just “start out right”... but, finish well also.

Scripture memory – Luke 9:23

*Growing Together*