A. The True Word (vs. 1):

1. For the gospel to which 1 John bears witness so firmly, and in such exalted
tones, is the good news of a God who had disclosed Himself uniquely in the
historical person of Jesus (vv1-3). It is a message of eternal life available through
Him in the present (v2); of fellowship both divine and human (v.3); and of
complete joy (v4). Above all, it is a testimony which demands personal
acceptance and experience (vv1-4).

2. "What we; That which" - The reference is to things relating to the Lord Jesus.
Four times John uses the pronoun "that which." Each is qualified by the phrase,
"concerning the Word of life." That is, the things John heard, saw, and felt
concerned the Word of life.

3. We - Could mean the writer of the epistle and his companions, but it more
probably means "we all," "we disciples of Christ."

4. What was from the beginning – Christ was and always will be before the
beginning (John 1:1), He is the one who established the beginning (Colossians
1:16-17), and will establish the new beginning (Colossians 1:18).

5. We have heard - They carefully listened to what Christ taught with a heart to do
it.

6. What we have seen - Their experience with Christ was a clear cognitive mental
understanding of who Christ is.

   a) The Docetic Gnostics denied His actual humanity. The "Docetic" comes
from the Greek word dokeo, "to seem." These argued that our Lord had only
a "seeming" body, not a real physical body. The Cerinthian Gnostics
distinguished between the man Jesus and the aeon Christ that came on Him
at His baptism and left Him on the Cross.
b) The word "Gnostic" comes from a Greek word gnosis, which means "to know." They claimed a superior, private knowledge over and above that of the Bible.

7. Seeing Jesus was not a passing glance it was a ‘careful and deliberate’ inspection of who He prove to be.

8. Thomas put his hands in the holes on Jesus hands and side.

9. The thoughts expressed by Christ complete focus was to establish the highest quality of life in the believer.

   a) Word of life. Word is a name rather than merely the idea of revelation, and life indicates work rather than being a name for Christ (though in v. 2 it is practically a name).  

   b) The main subject is "the word of life": embodied in Jesus, and proclaimed about him. This is attached to the beginning in three passages 1 John 1:1; John 1:1 and Revelations 9:12-13.

B. The Living Word (vs. 2):

1. All of the highest and best which Christ is (John 14:6; 1 John 1:2) which is life in the absolute sense that is an actual possession of a believer because of his relationship with Christ. This is the inner quality of a believers life (Ephesians 3:16-19) that provides power to deal with the attacks of Satan (1 John 4:4).

2. The entire quality of all that eternal life is was once and for all completely fully revealed to the disciples. Thus, the incarnation of the Son of God was the making visible to human understanding, the life which God is.

3. Christ completely revealed the entire quality of eternal life.

4. What they saw was consistently the truth.

5. This message that they continually declare rest on the fact it is based on eyewitness accounts.

6. This is the message they were continually announcing and reporting to everyone.

7. This is a life that is God’s life and it is therefore not affected by time. It has an unbroken duration.

8. God is the Father who began the conversion of our spiritual birth because He is the author of our Christian faith.

9. The Word is the very life of God.

10. The Word is a living soul.
11. ‘The eternal life which was with the Father’ became fully known being completely and clearly exposed through Christ. This is the same life as it was in the past that it is in the present that would be the same in the future.

C. The Word Unifies and Empowers Us (vs. 3-4):

1. The disciples were in a past state of seeing and what they saw in the past was the same manner in which they saw things each day.
2. They carefully listened to what Christ taught with a heart to do it.
3. This message that they continually declare rest on the fact it is based on eyewitness accounts.
4. The ‘Word of Life’ unites the believer and the H.S. to be joint-participants.
5. The ‘Word of Life’ establishes common purposes.
6. The ‘Word of Life’ establishes profound mutual relationships.
7. The reference could be to the entire contents of the letter or it refers to the apostolic message in vv. 1-3.
8. Holy Scripture and denotes legislative act or enactment implying and appealing to the indisputable and legal authority of the passage quoted.
9. The authenticity of the Holy Scriptures makes the disciples excessive gladness followed by various verbal expressions leading to leaping, skipping and dancing.
10. The joy is in continuous fullness.
11. It was used to describe a ship that was ready for a voyage. Their leaping and dancing was from a joy that was completely full.