

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
John 1:1-5 (page 739)

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Introduction:

- Author: John the a p o s t l e
- Date: circa AD 85 – 95
- Purpose: Jesus is G o d – b e l i e v e in Him (Jn 20:30-31)
- Audience: A l l people
(Jn 1:38; 41-42; 5:2; 9:7; 1:29; 3:14; 6:35ff)

Why four Gospels?

- *Matthew*: Jewish: This is the M e s s i a h, the King;
w o r s h i p Him
- *Mark*: Roman: This is the S e r v a n t who served humanity;
f o l l o w Him
- *Luke*: Greek: This is the only man among men w i t h o u t
s i n ; e m u l a t e Him
- *John*: Universal: This is G o d in human flesh; b e l i e v e
in Him.

Four p r o n o u n c e m e n t s about Jesus / the Word:

- His e x i s t e n c e - He is e t e r n a l
(Jn 1:1a; Jude 25; 2 Tim 1:9)

- His I d e n t i t y – He is Almighty G o d
(Jn 1:1b,c; 17:5; 3:12-13; 8:58; Titus 2:13)
- His r e l a t i o n s h i p to the world – He is the C r e a t o r
(Jn 1:2-3; Gen 1:1-3; Ps 19:1-6; Rom 1:18-20; 2 Cor 5:17;
Rev 21:1; Acts 17:28)
- His m i s s i o n to humanity: to bring l i g h t and l i f e
(Jn 1:4-5; 1:14; 14:6; 3:17-19; Eph 2:1-3; Heb 1:1-3)

Taking it further....

Use a concordance and look up the words: *believe, life, light, darkness, receive*....how many times are they used in John's gospel? Why are they significant to the message of the book? What is the relationship between the Word and God (v 1)?

How does the reality of what we have seen in verses 1-5 affect the way that you respond to God today? Will your response be any different than it has been in the past? Why or why not?

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 1:1-5 (Week one)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

The Gospel of John (Intro)

The Gospel of John was written by the apostle John, one of Jesus' disciples. It was written to both Jews and Gentiles living in the last years of the first century. John regularly explains Jewish customs and geography, as well as, translates Aramaic words into Greek so that his Gentile readers would understand. His intent for writing is made clear in John 20:30-31 - to show that Jesus Christ is indeed God in the flesh and that by believing in Him one can have eternal life.

Discussion Questions:

Who is Jesus?

- How did the disciples answer this question (cf Matt 16:13-17)
- How important is it that we get the answer to that question right? Does it really matter what we believe about who Jesus is? Why?
- If someone asked you who Jesus is, how would you respond?

READ John 1:1-5

Who is the Word? How do/can you know? (cf John 1:14)

- Why does John choose to use the word "Word" in reference to Jesus?
- In what way is Jesus the "ultimate" Word of God to man? (cf Heb 1:1-5)

What are three truths that John tells us about the Word in John 1:1?

- How does this verse address the *pre-existence* of Jesus? Is He a created being? (cf Col 1:15-20)
- How does it address His *co-existence* with God? (cf (John 17:5)
- How does this verse speak to the *equality* of Jesus with God? What did Jesus say about this during His earthly ministry? (John 8:58-59; 10:30-31, 38)

What was Jesus' role in creation? (John 1:3)

- How does this verse address the relationship God and Jesus had in the creation process (Gen 1:1-4,6a, 9a, 11a, 14a, 20a, 24a, 1:26; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2)

What does it mean when John says that "in Him was life"? (John 1:4)

- Discuss the following verses concerning what Jesus says about that life (John 3:16; 6:35; 10:10; 11:35; 14:6)

How is Jesus "the light of men"? (John 1:4)

- How has Jesus brought light into your life?
- In what way does light "overcome" darkness? (1 John 5:4-5)

Taking it to the streets....

How did these verses serve to encourage and strengthen me?

How does this understanding affect how you will live and the choices you make?

How will I respond this week....what will I do about it?