

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe

The Word Incarnate

John 1:6-18 (page 739)

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The Word becomes flesh (incarnate):

- The **eternal** Word (1:1-3)

- He always existed, was with God and was God and as God was the Creator of all things (Gen 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:2)

- The **mission** of the Word (1:4-5)

- He brought life and light into the darkness (John 8:12; 1 Peter 2:9)

- The **announcement** of the Word (1:6-8)

- John the Baptist
 - sent by God (v 6; Lk 1:13-17, 76-79; Isa 40:3; Mal 4:5-6)
 - to testify of the light (vs 7-8; Mt 3:1-3, 11-12; Mk 1:1-6)
 - so that all might believe (v 7; Mk 1:7-8; Jn 1:29; 3:36)

- The **unrecognized** Word (1:9-11)

- The world did not know Him (Acts 17:24-31; 1 Cor 2:6-8; Rom 1:20-23)
- Israel refused to receive Him (Matt 23:37-39; John 5:37-40)

- The **powerful** Word (1:12-13; John 6:37)

- Some received and believed in Him - human side of salvation (Rom 10:9-13; Acts 2:38-41; 17:27-34; 17:34)
- The new birth is a Divine work - supernatural side of salvation (Jn 3:7; 6:61-64; Eph 2:1, 4-7; Tit 3:5)

- The **glorious** Word (1:14-18)

- He models God's glory (vs 14-15; 1 Tim 3:16; 2 Cor 4:6)
- He ministers God's grace (16-17; Rm 5:20-21; Eph 2:8)
- He makes known God's greatness (18; 14:9; Heb 1:3)

Taking it further.....

John 1:1-18 is rich with statements about the Lord Jesus

Christ...take a moment to read through the verses and on a piece of paper list what this passage tells you about Him. then take a few minutes to write out your thoughts about each one.

*Read vs 10-13...*why didn't the world know Jesus? Who were "his own"?

What does it mean to receive Him or to believe on His name?

*Read vs 16-18...*Think about God's grace. Can you define it?

How have you experienced it in your life...give an example.

How do you understand God better as you learn more about Jesus? Does it make a difference in how you live? Why or why not?

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 1:6-18 (Week two)

(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 1:6-18)

The Gospel of John contain some of the most glorious verses in all of Scripture. We could spend months on these verses - they are so rich and deep. The apostle paints for us a picture of the Word becoming flesh - the incarnation - probably the most amazing thing that we could ever imagine. God actually becoming human, yet remaining eternal God. Jesus is bigger than we could ever imagine and yet, He is closer than we could ever understand. It is a wonderful combination of glory and grace! May God bring many insights and open the eyes of your understanding as you study together!

Discussion Questions:

How do we know who the apostle John is talking about in vs 6-9? Why is it not a reference to himself?

- Define "witness"...how does that help to answer this question?
- Why did this witness give his testimony? What was the purpose of His ministry?
- Is there any similarity to what you and I are called to be in our ministry as Christians? Discuss.

READ John 1:9-11

What was the reaction to "the light" that came into the world?

- What is the difference between the response of the "world" in v 10 and "His own" in v 11?
- What advantages did "his own" have that should have helped them be prepared to receive Him?
- Do we have advantages as believers today that should cause us to embrace Jesus more consistently?

What is the difference, if any, between "receiving" and "believing" in v 12? Discuss.

- What does v 13 teach us about our salvation? Does that change what you share about Christ with others?
- Do you view your Christianity as a decision that you made at some point in your past or do you see it as a daily way of living? Explain.

Why is the incarnation so important? (1:14)

- What are some of the issues of our salvation that the incarnation makes possible? (cf Heb 2:14-18; 10:5-10; 1 Cor 15:12-23)

How significant is it in your view that God came and "tabernacled" among us 1:14)?

- Does looking at the symbolism of the tabernacle in the OT and its prefiguring of Christ add any richness to your understanding of the incarnation? How? Discuss.

What is your understanding of v 17? How does the Law that Moses brought stand in contrast to the grace and truth that Jesus brought?

- Is the Law absent of God's truth? Is there any grace there?
- Is the law present at all in the New Covenant that Jesus brought? In what way?

How has the Father been "exegeted" by Jesus in v 18? What does that mean and how has it occurred?

- What does Jesus show us about God the Father and why is that important?

Taking it to the streets....

How did these verses make me more aware of the reality of the incarnation and its impact in my life?

Our faith is to be both verbally shared and practically lived out.
Who are some people that God has put in my life to speak and live out the Gospel to?

Take some time to meditate on John 1:16. Reflect on all the ways that Jesus has shown you "*grace upon grace*". Then list them and spend some time in praying and praising Him for His goodness and grace in your life.