

Scripture this week:

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

Scripture this week:

John 1:1-18 cont.

¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

What Comes Into Our Minds...

John 1:1-18

Todd Chapman - February 27, 2022

How the Son of God (2nd Person of the Trinity, "word"), who is God, who was with God before time began, became the Jesus who lived in the world in order that God might reveal His beauty, glory, love, forgiveness and grace. Jesus is the best revelation of God because He is God.

- **Jesus is God**
- **Jesus was divinely introduced**
- **Jesus was rejected by those He created**
- **Jesus (though rejected) came to give life to all who believe in Him**
- **Jesus entered the world by becoming a human**
- **Jesus is the perfect revealer of God, because He is God**

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on John 1:1-18

Reading the Text:

1. John calls Jesus the 'Word'. For Jews, it was God's dynamic, creative power in action. For the Greeks, it referred to the rationality and order upon which the universe depends. John writes, '*The Word became flesh.*' How is it that Jesus is the embodiment of '*the Word*'?
2. According to John in v. 3, what role did Jesus play in creation?
3. According to vv. 6 - 8, what was John the Baptist's role?
4. What does John mean when he writes that the true light '*enlightens everyone,*' (v. 9) and yet, '*the world did not know him,*' and '*his own did not receive him*' (vv. 10 - 11)?
5. John describes Jesus as revealing the invisible God through '*grace and truth*' (vv. 14 & 17). What do we learn about the character of God through those two attributes?

Knowing the Full Picture:

6. Read 1 John 1:1-4. compare this prologue with 1:1-18 in John's gospel. What common elements do you see that were key to John and obviously important to his original audience?

Living It Out:

7. Some people are comfortable thinking of Jesus simply as a good man, a moral leader, and an insightful teacher. How does John's introduction challenge this picture of Jesus?
8. How do you respond as you read John's portrayal of Jesus in 1:1-18? With questions? With doubt? With cynicism? With praise? In awe?
9. John assumes that it is in our fallen nature to resist the light and turn from the truth. Do you think this is true? If so, what does that mean for our sharing Jesus with others?
10. John knows that Jesus' identity as fully God and fully man is central to understanding God's plan. How can we celebrate this tension as we see it developed through John's gospel?