



DISUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *GOD FULLY EXPLAINS HIMSELF IN CHRIST [JOHN 1:1-18]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

For a moment, in the group, take some time to talk about how we would describe God, if we could not use Jesus Christ, his ministry, life, death or resurrection? In what way is this difficult or incomplete?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. In what ways have you found it is difficult to adequately communicate or express your thoughts or feelings into words?
2. Dave asked, "How does the infinite communicate with the finite? An all-wise God with limited human beings. That God, in order to communicate with us, must accommodate Himself to our 'baby talk', our limitations. Ultimately, He stoops down to us in Christ, so that we may know Him. Why is this essential to understanding who God is and why He came?"
3. Dave said that John uses the language of both the Jews and the Greeks to communicate who Jesus is. In what way is this important for us to learn to "speak the language" of those around us?
4. Not only does John use language to help us know God, but He says that God makes a home among us in Christ. In what way ought we "move into the lives" of people around us?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Read John 1:1-18]

Who is the Word? (1:1)

What is the relationship between the Word and God? (1:1-2)

What was the Word's role in creation? (1:3)

How is the "life" bring light to everyone? (1:4)

What was John's role in relation to the light? (1:6)

How did the light give light to every person? (1:9)

Why didn't the world recognize the light? (1:10)

What changes for those who believe and accept Him? (1:12) How does John use the metaphor of birth to describe what it means to be a child of God?

How and why did the Word make His home among us? (1:14)

Whose glory did the Word reveal? (1:14)

What did God give us through Moses? (1:17) In what way was it incomplete in knowing or revealing God?

What did God give us through Jesus? (1:18)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

John uses the Greek, “Logos”, our translation, “Word” to describe Jesus. The Jews understood “Word” as “divine speech”, that words, in and of themselves had a unique, almost independent quality. The Greeks understood Logos, as the organizing principle behind the cosmos, that brings order out of disorder.

- In what way does John help bridge the gap for those who thought very differently about God?
- What is unique about John’s description about Jesus as “the Word of God”?
- Most often Christians refer to the word of God, as the words in Scripture—how is that at odds with John’s description? Why may this be an important distinction?

Why does John make a point to draw clear lines between John the Baptist and Jesus? In what ways can we be tempted to not keep clear lines about those who give witness to the Light and the true Light? What role do we play as followers of Jesus?

Although Jesus is the WORD of God, John says it was His own people that rejected Him.

In what ways do God’s own people reject Him? - In what ways can familiarity become an obstacle to knowing God?

John clearly states the purpose for which God takes on flesh, that those who believe in Him and accepted Him would become His children.

- What does John assume about our spiritual state without Christ?
- This is the first time John uses the metaphor of birth, “reborn” to describe knowing God. Why is this important?

What practical implications does it mean for us that God becomes human and made His home among us?

In Christ, God is revealed to us (v18). Looking at verses 16-18 what does it mean for us that God is fully revealed in Jesus Christ?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?