

The Gospel of John (1:1-18)

A House Church Outline



1. Praise *(Purpose: To worship God)*

- What are you thankful for this week? *(let the group's secretary write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Song Service
 - Sing a few songs of praise to God

2. Pray *(Purpose: To carry each others' burdens and to seek the Lord)*

- What challenges did you have this week? *(write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Go into a season of prayer

3. Review *(Purpose: To learn accountability)*

- Tell us how it went with what you promised to do in last week's meeting? *(e.g. Who did you share your faith with this past week? Who did you minister to? How did actioning your I WILL STATEMENT go?)*
- Where people have failed to fulfil what they said they would, do not be harsh with them but gently encourage them to try again in the coming week. Give them more support by phoning or joining them in the week.

4. Give *(Purpose: To be good stewards of our monies)*

- This is the time to return tithes and offerings. If done electronically, kindly ensure that you get the bank account details of your local church from your treasurer. Don't forget to complete an envelope and to send the breakdown to him/her.

5. Discover *(Purpose: To learn to listen to God, and be obedient to His Word)*

• **Notes for the facilitator**

- The gospel of John was written by John the disciple of Jesus, around the end of the first century (AD 95 -100)
- Major Themes
 - Jesus, the divine Son of God
 - Jesus, the greatest revelation of God's character ever seen (John 14)
 - The importance of a response to Jesus (John 5:24; 8:51; 11:25-26)
- Some translate vs 1 as "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was **a god**". If that were the case then we would have to translate vss 6, 12, 13 and 18 in the same way – which would not make sense.
- Vs 12 – **Sons of God / children of God** - To become a son, or child, of God is to enter into the covenant relationship by the new birth (John 3:3) – *SDA Bible Commentary*.
- Vs 14 – **Seen his glory**. Here John doubtless thinks particularly of experiences such as the Transfiguration, when divinity momentarily flashed through humanity. Peter similarly speaks of being an "eyewitness" to the "majesty" and "excellent glory" of Christ at the Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:16–18)... The Christian faith rests upon the fact that this divine "glory" rested upon a historical person, Jesus of Nazareth. Secondly, John may also have in mind the perfection of character exemplified by the Saviour – *Ibid*
- Vs 14 – **Made his dwelling among us**: Literally, "tented." Recalls the OT sanctuary, through which God provided a way to dwell with His people (Ex. 25:8) - *Andrews Study Bible*
- Vs 14 – **Begotten of the Father**. Some say that this means Jesus was born of the Father, and therefore is not God in an original sense. The word begotten however means 'unique, one of a kind'. The NIV translates it correctly as, "We have seen his

glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father". Note that Jesus came from the Father's side (cf. 1:18) and not from the Father Himself.

- Vs 17 – The KJV has a 'but' between 'Moses' and 'grace' giving the impression that the the law was not grace based. John never intended to pit law and grace. Grace and truth were also around in OT times. Remember that the law contained the fullness of God's grace revealed to humankind up to that time. This verse shows that God's revelation in the OT was good, but the new revelation through Jesus is even better. Before God revealed Himself in a cloudy pillar of fire, but now he has come in the flesh. Note that the law was **given** to Moses (i.e. he was the intermediary informing the people of that grace that was given to him by Jesus) while grace and truth **came through** Jesus (i.e. Jesus is the Source and Originator of grace and truth – even from OT times).
- *Read John 1:1-18. Preferably let one person read it. Let everyone then put down their Bibles and get the group to reconstruct the passage in their own words. This teaches the group to be careful in quotation Scripture correctly and to use it as the basis of their discussions.*
- **Discussion Questions** *(use only a few). The notes in italics after some of the questions below are for the facilitator, and not to be read out to the group.*
 - Jesus was called the 'Word'. A 'word' is part of speech, and communicates something. What is it that the Godhead wanted to communicate through Jesus?
 - How is the Word described in this whole passage? Identify the various qualities and actions of Jesus recounted in vss 1-18?
 - Why do you think this introduction (1:1-18) begins in eternity instead of at the birth of Jesus?
 - Why do you think Jesus took on flesh in order to save us? Why didn't He just shout out His message from the sky?
 - How does one's belief about Jesus affect the way the way one lives?
 - In what ways is Jesus the "light of men"?
 - What do you think it means that Jesus is the True Light that lights every man coming into the world (1:9)?
 - Why do you think the world did not recognise Him (vs 10) even though He had been prophesied about hundreds of years before His birth?
 - In what way is John an example for us to follow?
 - What do you think was the glory of Jesus that John had seen?
 - What stands out in this passage for you?
- **Application Questions** *(select a few depending on your time. One has to be the I WILL STATEMENT)*
 - In what way have you received from God "one blessing after another" (vs 16)
 - In what ways has Jesus brought light into your life?
 - Are there certain areas in your life in which you have 'not received Him' (vs 11) as Lord?
 - How would you like to bring the light of Jesus into someone's life this week?
 - I WILL STATEMENT: Formulate an I will statement in response to what you have discovered in the Word. Let the group's secretary also record these in an A4 notebook. Ensure that everyone gets a chance to give their I WILL STATEMENT. You have to be specific. E.g. "I will share the story of Jesus with my colleague James who has been asking me some spiritual questions of late."

6. Share *(Purpose: To be witnesses of our faith)*

- Do you have anyone you could share today's lesson with this week? *Be specific.*

7. Closing prayer

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