



In the Flesh – John 1:6-14

December 17 | Weekly Devotionals

Section 1: Introduction

The gospel of John is the fourth gospel in our New Testament. It's different than Matthew, Mark, and Luke (often called the "Synoptic Gospels" for their similarity of content), yet points us to Jesus all the same. John's intent with his writing is simple: So "that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Everything in this gospel points to that reality. Every story, every statement, every healing. John is saying, "Look at Jesus! Find life in his name! See the abundance of his Kingdom!" Of course, as John will show us, not everyone can grasp this truth. Some believe, yes, but some also chastise Jesus, berate Jesus, and turn away from Jesus, leaving you and me as readers to reflect on if we will be the same.

Our next passage is John 1:6-14. And it's here that the disciple John, brings up John the Baptizer, the one who pointed people to Jesus and made ready the way for his coming.

Read John 1:6-14.

Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage

1. About whom are verses 6-8 referring to? What do you learn about this man from these verses? What do you learn about this man from Matthew 11:1-19?

2. How does John the gospel writer describe Jesus' relationship to the world in verse 9?
3. According to verse 12, who do those who receive Jesus have the right to become?
4. According to verse 13, what are these people born *not* of? What are they born truly of?
5. The word translated "dwelt," or "made his home," comes from a word which means "tabernacled." Remember the tabernacle in the center of the tent of meeting that Moses had set up? It eventually became the "Holy of Holies" in the center-most part of the temple in Jerusalem. It represented the place where the presence of God rested, where the law was kept, where sacrifices for the Israelite nation were made, and the focus of worship. Keeping all that in mind, how is "tabernacled" an appropriate word to describe Jesus? (1:14)

Section 3: Reflection questions

1. In what ways are you like and unlike John the Baptist when it comes to pointing people to Jesus?
2. According to John 1:6-14, if we believe in Jesus, we are God's children. That is our identity. Do you feel this reality at the core of your being? How does that affect your everyday life? If not, what other identities are you latched to?
3. Today, God dwells in us by his Spirit. When was the last time you sat in God's presence? What was that like? How did God speak to you? Do you have any intentional moments like that planned?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using John 1:6-14, write out a prayer in response to what you've read OR use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for John 1:6-14. Thank you for sending John the Baptist as a witness, shining light on the coming of Jesus, the true light of the world. I am so humbled by the fact that the Jesus entered our darkness, offering hope and salvation.

I acknowledge my need for Jesus to guide me in the midst of a world often overshadowed by confusion and sin. Jesus, bring grace and truth to my life. Help me to embrace him fully and to be transformed by your love, and then to reflect your love and grace to those around me.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get John 1:6-14 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out John 1:6-14 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize John 1:12-13 using various techniques such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.