



In the Flesh – John 1:6-18

December 17 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with a prayer and some intentional opening questions (15 minutes).

As you begin your time together, spend a few moments settling into a comfortable space. Have each person quiet themselves before the Lord, sitting up straight with feet flat on the floor. Be still and know that the Lord is God.

After a few moments of quiet stillness, have someone read John 1:1-18 for your group. After the reading is finished, take a few moments of silent reflection. Then, read John 1:1-18 once more, instructing your group to notice and words or phrases that resonate. After the second reading, give your group space to pray to God about any of the words or phrases that stood out to them.

After Scripture reading and prayer, like last week, close this time thanking God for your time together and asking him to accomplish the purpose of John's gospel for your group: that each person in the group "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).

After you've finished praying, ask the following question: "How are you or your family being intentional about reflecting on Christ this holiday season?"

Break into smaller groups to discuss the Scripture (15 minutes).

Take a few moments to read Scripture and reflect on some questions that relate to John 1:6-18.

- 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?
- How does John the gospel writer describe Jesus' relationship to the world in verse 9?
- According to verse 12, who do those who receive Jesus have the right to become?
- What are these people born not of? According to verse 13, what are they truly born of?
- 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)

Come back together as a large group to discuss the sermon (25 minutes).

- In his sermon, Dan talked about how John 1:6-18 gives us seven truths about what Jesus has done for us: (1) Jesus brought light to us; (2) Jesus dwelled among us; (3) Jesus revealed his glory to us; (4) Jesus wed grace and truth for us; (5) Jesus extended perpetual grace to us; (6) Jesus made God known to us; and (7) Jesus welcomed us into God's family. Which of these resonated with you most? Why?
- How did this sermon either deepen your faith or challenge you? Explain.
- What does Jesus' dwelling amongst us reveal to you about the character of God? Do you have a sense of Jesus' presence with you even now through the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
- In what areas are you in need of Jesus' grace upon grace upon grace? How might you need to live out Jesus' perpetual grace for you towards others in your life?
- Think about being a part of Jesus' family. Would you say that your sonship/daughter-ship to God the Father is the truest thing about you? Explain. How would holding your identity change how you operate in your everyday life?

- Which one of the truths about Jesus' work do you sense God inviting you to hold onto this upcoming week?

Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotions available to help you walk through gospel of John series! You can find that material at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Share any logistics that you need to with Christmas being next week!
3. Finish your group session with prayer requests.