



John: The Word Became Flesh

RECAP:

The Gospel of John is unlike any other Gospel in the New Testament. While Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us about what Jesus *did*, John is especially concerned with our understanding **who Jesus truly is** - and what believing in Him means for our lives.

John does not begin with a genealogy or a birth narrative; He begins in eternity. Before creation, before history, before time itself, John tells us that Jesus already was. He is the eternal Word, fully God, through whom all things were made. From the opening verses, John makes it clear that Christianity rises or falls on the identity of Jesus.

John writes with a clear purpose: "*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*" This Gospel is not just informational - it is invitational. John wants us to move beyond curiosity, or familiarity, into genuine belief that leads to real life.

Throughout the Gospel, John carefully selects signs, conversations, and teachings that reveal Jesus as *God in the flesh - full of grace and truth*. We will meet people who are religious but confused, sincere but searching, confident but blind, broken but hopeful. In each of these encounters, the same question is placed before them - and before us: *Will you believe?*

To believe the Gospel of John is to receive Jesus - to entrust yourself to Him. When that happens, John tells us something remarkable occurs - we are given eternal life. Not just eternal life someday, but a new kind of life now; life rooted in truth, shaped by grace, and anchored in God's presence.

As we journey through the Gospel of John together, we will see that Jesus does not come to make us more religious, He comes to make us alive. This Gospel invites us to see Jesus clearly, believe Him truly, and discover the life that only He can give.

- 1. Icebreaker:** At this time, what is one small thing that either brings you joy or confusion?
- 2.** Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching; was there anything you heard for the first time, something that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?
- 3. Read John 1:1-3.** List everything John tells us about "the Word." What claims does John make about Jesus before telling us anything about His actions?
- 4. Read and compare Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5.** What similarities or differences do you notice between these passages? How does John expand our understanding of creation by identifying the "Word" as a person?

5. **Read John 1:10-13.** What stands out to you about the contrast between rejecting Jesus and receiving Him? How does John describe what happens when someone receives Christ?
6. **Read Exodus 33:18-23 and 34:5-7, and John 1:14-18.** What do these passages show about how God revealed His glory in Exodus (the Old Testament) compared to how He reveals Himself in Jesus?
7. The message emphasized: “He chooses you by grace; you receive Him by faith.” Which side of that truth do you tend to struggle with more – trusting God’s grace, or actively receiving Him by faith? Why?
8. John says believing in Jesus leads to becoming a child of God. How might truly living from that identity change the way you handle stress, failure, or comparison this week?

9. As we begin this “Believe and Live” series, what is one area of your life where you sense Jesus inviting you to trust Him more deeply – not just believe the facts about Him, but receive Him?

SUPPORT/PRAYER

(15 min)

Invite group members to briefly pray, asking God to:

- help them see Jesus clearly
- believe Him personally
- experience the life He offers this week