



John 1:1-18 Small Group Questions

- At the beginning of his sermon, Ben discussed how the first scenes of stories set the stage for what is to follow. What is your favorite opening scene of a movie, and how does it lay the foundation for what is to follow in the movie?
- The prologue to John's Gospel is also meant to set the stage for what is to follow. In what ways does John 1:1-18 lay the foundation for the rest of the book?
- What do we learn about the identity of Jesus in verses 1-5?
 - *Follow up:* John begins his Gospel by calling Jesus, "the Word." Why do you think he chose to refer to Jesus in this way instead of just calling Him "Jesus"?
 - *Follow up:* Ben talked about the Greek word "logos", which means, "word." He showed how this word refers to the overarching purpose, principle, or essence of life and the universe.
 - What ideas, behaviors, or philosophies does our culture treat like this? What ideas, behaviors, or philosophies do we treat like this when we are not focused on Jesus?
 - What happens when we elevate ideas, behaviors, people, or philosophies besides Jesus and the gospel to the level of "logos"?

- What does it say about the world that Jesus is the “logos” of the world? What does it say about our lives that Jesus is our “logos”? How does knowing Jesus provide access to the “good life”, as Ben called it?
 - Why can Jesus provide meaning and purpose where other things can’t?
- Ben mentioned that the foundations of the Trinity (God is Three— Father, Son, Holy Spirit—but also One) is found here in verses 1-5. Why does the Trinity matter for Christians?
- Besides “Word,” what other words does John use to describe Jesus in verses 1-5? Why do you think he chooses those words?
 - What does it say about Jesus that He is the “light”? What about the “life”? In what ways have you experienced Jesus as light in contrast to darkness?
 - John says that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Where have you seen the light of Christ shine through darkness, either in your life or in someone else’s?
- Looking at verses 9-13, what are the two responses to the light?
 - Why is there not a third response for those who are somewhere in between rejection and receiving the light?
 - Ben provided a few reasons why people in Jesus’ time might have rejected him. What reasons do you see that people reject Jesus today?
 - What do receivers of the light receive when they accept the light?
 - Why does John specify that becoming children of God does not come by “blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of the flesh, but by God?”
 - Why do we sometimes feel the need to “prove” ourselves to God, to earn His Fatherhood? What does it look like to

really believe that God has made us His children if we accept the light, that there is no more work to be done to become His children?

- What do verses 14-18 tell us about Jesus?
 - Why does it matter that “we have seen His glory”?
 - Have someone read Exodus 33:18-20. How does this verse help us see the significance of John’s claim that “we have seen His glory”?
 - What privileges does access to God’s presence and glory provide for us as Christians? How do these privileges shape us, form us, and transform us?