

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide

SEEING THE INVISIBLE GOD!

JOHN 1:1-14 (SB 04.30.2022)

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel stated "We think of John as the beloved Apostle, author of one of the gospels. We see his story depicted in stained glass in churches. It's easy to forget that he came from humble beginnings. John was originally a fisherman by trade. At some point, like many others, he became a disciple of John the Baptist. Then one day, he heard John the Baptist point at Jesus and say, 'This is the guy you should be following.' That was it. From that day forward he began to follow Jesus. He spent the next three-and-a-half years traveling with Jesus and living with Him. At the end of that time, he came to believe that Jesus was more than just a good man or moral teacher. He came to believe that Jesus was the Son of God and Savior of the world. John spent the rest of his life telling people about Jesus. As an old man, he still couldn't believe that he got to do life with God in the flesh." Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Daniel's sermon?
2. Where did you have your "beginnings"? Who was with you in the beginning? Who lived with you, and how did you get along?
3. When you were in high school, if you were to choose one person to "testify" for you, to say something good about who you were and what you were about, who would it have been?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS John 1:1-5

Beginnings are important to learn about any person. Today we will be looking at the most important beginning in history, the beginning of Jesus' life on earth. Where the other Gospel writers focused mostly on the facts of Jesus' life and ministry, right from the beginning John focused on the meaning behind those facts. In His prologue, John connected Jesus' earthly life with His eternal status as the Word, God made flesh.

1. What person in your life has most showed you who God is through how he or she acted?
2. Who was being referred to as "the Word"? Why didn't John just use his name? What does it mean that this person was called "the Word"?
3. What did John mean when he said, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (v. 5)? Is it still true that the darkness of the world has not "understood" the light of Jesus Christ? Where in the world is this most evident?

John referred to Jesus as "the Word of God." Jesus was in the beginning with God the Father, and Jesus is Himself God. All things were created by God through His Word, that is Jesus. This is an extraordinary claim, that God Himself entered into human history in the form of a man. Tragically, Jesus would be rejected by those whom He came to save. This tragedy continues today, as many continue to reject the truth about God as revealed in the person of Jesus.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 1:6-13

BREAKTHROUGH! in 2022

1. What people are given the right to become children of God? What does it mean to be a child of God?
2. Are not all people children of God in the sense that He created us (Acts 17:28)? How is this different than being children of God, in the sense of verses 12-13 of this passage?

Those who receive Jesus are given the right to become children of God. This act of receiving entails belief in Jesus as God in the form of man, who came to earth and died for the sins of His people in order to secure their salvation. Those who believe in the name of Jesus have been born again by the will of God. All people are made in the image of God; yet only those who receive Jesus as He truly is, as John described Him to be, are God's spiritual children who receive salvation from Him.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 1:14

1. What happened to the "Word" in John 1:14?
2. What is the name of the Word?
3. What does "only Son" (John 1:14) mean?
4. According to verses 1:14, God became a man, and that man was Jesus. Why do you think God decided to become a man? Why is it a big deal that God decided to do this?

The Word continues the theme of 1:1. Became flesh does not mean the Word stopped being God; rather, the Word was made flesh. Took up residence among us literally means "pitched His tent" (Gk skenoo), an allusion to God's dwelling among the Israelites in the tabernacle (Ex 25:8-9; 33:7). In the past God demonstrated His presence to His people in the tabernacle and the temple. Now God has taken up residence among His people in the Word-made-flesh, Jesus Christ (Jn 1:17).

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

There's a lot of talk these days about identity. Many people are confused about who they are. Everyone builds their identity around something. For some, it's their job. Others base their identity around their relationships or looks or ethnicity. The problem with building your identity on any one of those things is that when they get threatened or taken, your identity crumbles. Instead of trying to build your own identity or allowing others to hand you one, try rooting your identity in who God says you are, like John did. When you do that, you'll find that you are always on solid ground. Who are you? You are the one Jesus loves.

1. Have you received Jesus in the way John described in this passage? How is God prompting you to respond to Him in light of this passage?
2. In what way is darkness a part of your life right now, and what will you do to invite the light of Jesus to pierce through this darkness?
3. Who do you know who needs to hear the truth about Jesus, the Word made flesh? How will you pursue them this week? (Make a list of names of people who need Jesus as savior and intentionally pray for them until we see them saved!. Loved ones, spouses, friends, workmates, neighbors!)

PRAYER: Thank God that He sent Jesus to dwell among mankind in order that we might be saved. Ask God to continue to reveal areas of darkness in your life that you need to submit to Him. Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with others.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." [1st John 1:1]