



## Read the Gospel

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: John 1:1-18

Jesus. The mere mention of His name stirs the heart. Depending on your persuasion, the name of Jesus brings either comfort and confidence or condemnation and confusion. Those marked by a positive affirmation and belief in who Jesus is find that His name brings steadiness and strength. Those who do not know or understand Him are often offended by the person of Jesus Christ. They believe Him to be a prophet at best and explain away His incarnation, making their case based on incomplete evidence and partial facts.

What is your persuasion? Can you make a case for the origin of Christ? In this lesson, we will focus on the incarnation of Jesus using solid evidence from the Word of God. This will bring confidence to your beliefs about Jesus and help you substantiate a convincing response regarding His incarnation as you seek to live your life on mission for Him.

## Pray for the Work of the Gospel

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** God for the truth and confidence found in His Word.
- **Repent** from spiritual apathy and for neglecting to daily read and apply the Word of God.
- **Ask** God to give your group a heart for the lost and a desire to live in light of this passion.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit's work as you seek to make disciples and multiply disciple-makers.

## Engage in the Gospel

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.**

- Explain a time when you were persuaded to purchase something based on a claim from an advertisement. Did the item live up to your expectations? What did you learn from this process?
- If the Holy Spirit has persuaded you to believe in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, answer this question: Has Jesus lived up to your expectations? What has been the most significant benefit to knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord?
- If you have not believed in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, what is keeping you from making Him Savior and Lord of your life? Will you open your heart to the Holy Spirit and be persuaded to come to know Jesus today?
- Read John 1:1-5 and discuss the following:
  - The **eternality** of the Word (Jesus). The fact that Jesus was, is, and always has been. Focus on the phrase in verse 1 that says: "was the word." (The form of the verb "was" here is the imperfect form which reaches back indefinitely. Logos means "first cause, divine expression, reason.")



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- The **personality** of the Word (Jesus). Focus on the phrase in verse 1 that says: “was with God.” (See Genesis 1:26 & Hebrews 1:1-3.)
- The **deity** of the Word (Jesus). Focus on the phrase in verse 1 that says: “the word was God.” (See Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 14:6-10.)

How do these traits of Jesus bring clarity and confidence to the claim of His incarnation and to His authority over your life?

- John 1:4-5 reminds us that Jesus brought light into a dark world. How has Jesus given light to your life? How does the light of Jesus in you affect those around you?
- Read John 1:9-13. We are instruments used of God to share the light of Christ, but who do we need to remember ultimately enlightens hearts to know and understand spiritual truth? (See 1 Corinthians 2:14-16.) How then should we pray for those who do not know Jesus?
- Read John 1:14-18. Jesus became a visible reality for us. He became the new tabernacle (dwelling place of God) for us and with us.
  - How was the Old Testament Tabernacle a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God? (See Exodus 25-30, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23.)
  - In what earthly temple does Jesus now live? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
  - Do your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and colleagues know that Jesus lives in you? How do they know? Do you act differently than the world? Is your attitude Christ-like or worldly?
  - Who have you shared Jesus with recently?
- In John 1:11-13 we see a stark contrast between rejecting Christ and receiving Him. Discuss the implications for both. Then discuss the process for receiving Christ (it is individual in response, essential in access, supernatural in process).
- John 1:17 talks about the glorious grace and truth that came through Jesus Christ. What does the grace and truth of Jesus mean to you? Do you see grace and truth at work in your life? How have you seen God’s grace working in your life this week?

## Live the Gospel

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.**

- Who will you intentionally invest in this week for the sake of the Gospel?
- What truth from this lesson will you apply to your life (put into practice) this week?

### **Joshua Code memory verse:**

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. – Joshua 1:8*