

Revealed: The Gospel of John Derrick Shields "The Word Became Flesh" July 7, 2024

Key Verses: John 1:1-18

Key Thought: The "Word" became a human to reveal the Father to us so that— trusting in Him— we could also become children of the Father.

Points to Consider:

- Christ Community Church exists to awaken the broken to a life of wholeness <u>FOUND IN JESUS</u>. → We will focus on <u>JESUS</u> over the next thirteen weeks in the Gospel of John.
- 1:1-5: The Gospel begins with several allusions to the biblical creation account (cf. Genesis 1:1-5), intimating that this Gospel will be a story of re-creation. The referent of the "Word" is the 2nd person of the Triune God, who became "Jesus of Nazareth" via the incarnation. The "Word" evokes the vital role of God's speech in the creation, supporting the author's claim that the Son had a vital role in the creation. The author compares the Life of the Son to the light of the sun, which illuminates the world from above.
- 1:6-8: "John" refers to John the Baptist, who was sent from God to witness to the Son in order that all people would trust in the Son— which is also the author's purpose in writing this Gospel (cf. 20:30-31).
- 1:9-13: The Son enables those who trust in Him to become children of the Father.
- 1:14-18: God, the creator, became human, the creation! Jesus is thus both "fully God and fully human" (The Council of Chalcedon). The Son became incarnate to reveal the Father to humanity. → God wants to reveal Himself to you.

Discussion Prompts:

- What stands out to you from the Gospel's introduction (1:1-18)?
- Why did the Son become a human? (There are at least two important reasons.)
- Can you share a story of God revealing Himself to you?
- Why might John have chosen the word "children" to describe the relationship with God that the Son enables? Reflect on what it means for us to be called "children" of God.
- In view of your discussion, pray for each other, the church, and your "world."