

The day God became man #1

SMALL GROUP NOTES

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Scripture

John 1: 1-4

Scripture context

John 1: 1-18 is the longest and clearest passage about the incarnation (Jesus becoming a man) in the Bible. There is a lot in it! John, probably writing to both Jews and Greeks, starts by writing; 'In the beginning' (v1). This is undoubtedly intended to bring to mind the first verse of Genesis 1. John is writing about a new beginning, a new creation. His use of 'the Word' (the Greek word 'logos') would have been provocative for both Jews and Greeks. It is likely that Jews would have related 'the Word' to 'the word of the Lord' which in a way, in the OT, was the agent of divine will ('God said let there be light' etc.). For the Greeks, the idea of logos was commonplace. 'The Word' referred to some form of ultimate reality / creative energy at the source of all things. That John begins here and then brings the revelation that 'the Word' is actually Jesus, the Son of God made man, would have blown their minds!

The first four verses of John 1 speak of Christ's eternal nature, his pre-eminence, his deity, his relationship within the Godhead, his role in creation, his authorship of life, his power over darkness.

Question for study and discussion

1. How are you feeling about Christmas coming? What does this season mean for you?
2. How can we ensure we focus on Jesus this Christmas?
3. John 1: 1-4 presents a huge vision of Jesus' nature. What most impacts you about the description of Him?
4. Think about verse 3 and God's creation. What in creation most amazes you?