

LIGHT TRIUMPHANT

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Martin Segal (Canterbury) 03/12/17

Mike Clements (Whitstable) 03/12/17

SCRIPTURE

John 1:4-13

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' ('Logos' in Greek) 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!

In verse 4 John introduces the picture of eternal word being the 'true light'. This imagery of Jesus as the light is one that runs throughout John's gospel. The light comes into the darkness; the darkness of the world, the darkness of broken and blinded humanity and brings enlightenment. The light of Jesus illuminates our need and brings a revelation of the Father's glory in the person of the Son.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What does the picture of Jesus as the 'light' mean to you? How does it encourage you?
2. Read John 1:5. What encouragement do you find in this verse for the world and for you in your current circumstances?
3. Verse 9 speaks about Jesus being the 'true light'? What do you think this means? What 'false lights' can we be drawn to putting our trust in?
4. The church is now called to be a light to the world. What does that look like in your life? In what areas of our lives do we have an opportunity to shine brighter?