

J O H N

I N T H E B E G I N N I N G !

SESSIONS 1-3



JOHN

IN THE BEGINNING!

SESSION 1

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

J O H N

IN THE BEGINNING!

SESSION 1

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST!

SESSION 1

How well do you know Jesus? In Scripture, there is no one better at helping us answer this question than the apostle John. And that's a good thing, because there is nothing more important than knowing Jesus. John aimed to examine the evidence of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection. His reason for writing is not to simply inspire you with Jesus' miracles or impress you with His education. Instead, John wants us to see Jesus, the Son of God, who invites us to believe in Him as Savior, Lord and God.

OPENING

This Sunday, we began our series by looking at the preexistence of Christ in John chapter 1, verses 1-5. As Pastor David talks about the LOGOS or the word of God, I was reminded of what Paul said about the preeminent Christ in his letter to the Colossians.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read Colossians 1:15-20. How does Paul begin this passage?

Paul begins with the excellent point that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Jesus reveals God perfectly. The fact is simply this: if you have seen Jesus, you have seen the invisible God.

Is this the only place in scripture that refers to Jesus as the invisible God?

this is not the only place we see this concept in scripture. Jesus backs this up later in John's gospel when he corrects Philip for his wrong thinking; John 14:8-9. The author of Hebrews also has something to say about Jesus' preeminence; Hebrews 1:3.

J O H N

IN THE BEGINNING!

SESSION 1

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST!

What does it mean to be first born over creation?

Being “firstborn” means that he is supreme over all other earthly kings, that Christ is supreme over all creation. Paul is distinguishing Christ from all created things. Christ outranks all things in creation.

How do we know that this is the correct understanding?

Because of Paul’s explanation in verse 16; Christ is “the firstborn over all creation because, by Him, everything was created.” Christ is supreme over all creation because he created all things. There is nothing made that Christ was not involved with in creating.

How does Paul further explain this point?

By declaring that not only have all things been created THROUGH Christ, but all things were created FOR Christ. Jesus is the GOAL of all

creation. Everything exists to display Christ’s glory; ultimately, he will be glorified in his creation.

What does Paul mean by Jesus as Eternal Sustainer and head of the body?

This means that he existed before creation; He existed before anything else. He is eternal. He has no beginning because he was before everything. Not only is Christ eternal, but he holds all creation together. He keeps the cosmos from becoming chaos.

Why is this an essential doctrine?

because Christ did not create the world and then leave. He did not start things off and walk away. Christ is very much involved with the sustaining of His creation.

What does it mean to be the head of the church?

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THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST!

when Paul says that Jesus is the head of the body, the church, he simply means that Jesus is in charge of our lives. He guides and governs his followers. We are not in charge. We are not the head. Christ is the head. Christ is in charge. It is a straightforward yet important word picture.

What would it mean if you did not have your head? What would happen to your body?

You cannot exist without your head. The head controls everything. Your body is entirely dependent on your head being on shoulders. This is a critical point that Paul is making that we can easily miss. We are incomplete without Jesus.

What does it mean that Jesus is the Firstborn From The Dead

Jesus was not the first person to be raised from the dead. We see Elisha miraculously raising a child from the dead. And even Jesus raised people from the dead during His ministry. The difference is that Jesus was the first person to be raised from the dead, never to die again!

Why is this resurrection so important?

This Resurrection from the grave, never to die again, makes Christ supreme overall. But the encouragement here is that he is the first, but he will not be the last! This resurrection from the grave to eternal life is a promise to all who put Their faith and trust in Jesus, the firstborn from the dead.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Do you recognize Jesus Christ as the Ruler of all creation?
- Have you trusted Jesus as your eternal sustainer?
- Is Jesus the head of your body?
- In what ways do we take Jesus off the throne of our life?
- Have you allowed Jesus to reconcile you to the father?





JOHN

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SESSION 2

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SESSION 2

JESUS: THE TRUE LIGHT

SESSION 2

The apostle Paul gives us beautiful pictures of what it looks like to be a follower of Christ and the joy we experience in that relationship. Paul has described God as the God of all comfort and continues to present God as giving the apostles comfort through suffering and restlessness.

OPENING

This Sunday, we continued our series by looking at the true light that is Christ in John chapter 1, verses 6-13. As Pastor David talks about the light as both the person of Jesus and the gospel that he brought, Paul's message to the Corinthians backs up this idea of Jesus as the true light.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read [2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#). What encouragement does Paul begin with in this passage?

The first thing we see in this passage is that we should Not Lose Heart. Even in all that Paul, the apostles, and his companion's experience, they do not lose heart. This is amazing!

What are the challenges that Paul and his companions are facing?

The people Paul is preaching to have their minds hardened and their hearts veiled. But even still, Paul does not lose heart. He does not give up and he is not discouraged.

Why doesn't Paul allow himself to be discouraged

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JESUS: THE TRUE LIGHT

The reason he is not discouraged is stated in verse 1; by the mercy of God, they have this ministry. They do not lose heart because they possess this glorious, life-giving ministry by God's mercy. How can you be discouraged or give up when you have such a fantastic treasure?

What message does the religious world need to hear?

We should not try to deceive people with the gospel or trick people with it. Further, we should not tamper with God's word or distort God's message. The goal is not to try to trick people into becoming Christians or trying to change God's message so that The gospel will be more palatable.

What method should we use to share the gospel?

The method is simple: We preach what God's word says and live it. If people reject, then they are not rejecting us they are rejecting the gospel.

What is the struggle that we all face when it comes to sharing the gospel?

We are sharing the gospel with those who have blinded minds. Paul says that if the gospel is veiled to people, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Do you see the glory splendor and beauty of the true light of God?
- Are you, like the world, blinded to the light of the gospel and Christ?
- If not, Then what steps are we taking to share the true light of the gospel of Jesus with the world?





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SESSION 3

THE DOCTRINE OF THE INCARNATION

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The apostle Paul is writing to these Christians so that they will focus on their manner of life being worthy of the gospel of Christ. One of the key characteristics of a life being lived for the gospel is Striving to live the way that Christ lived. Jesus left heaven and became one of us through the incarnation so that he could teach us some very important lessons. So what are some lessons that Christ's incarnation taught us?

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read [Philippians 2:5-11](#). What is the first admonition from Paul in this passage?

to do Nothing From Selfish Ambition or Conceit. This is a very forceful declaration.

What is selfish ambition?

Selfish ambition is anything that pushes OURselves forward instead of the cause of Christ. Any activity that is self-serving or seeks personal advantage or gain is to be avoided at all costs.

What happens when selfish ambition takes over?

OPENING

This Sunday we continued in our series as we focused on the incarnation of Christ in John chapter 1 verses 14-18. As Pastor David dove into the incarnation with us, I also thought of Paul's perspective of the incarnation in his letter to the Philippians.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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Unity is destroyed when people push themselves forward. Discord and division are the result of selfish ambition and conceit.

What is conceit?

Conceit is advancing ourselves to enjoy glory from success. The idol of self is an enormous idol in our lives that can be easily ignored. We think that we are due more than what we have received and we are worthy of more honor than we are getting.

Should we act on this kind of thinking?

There should be nothing in our lives from this kind of thinking. We should not act on those thoughts instead we should declare war against this kind of self-centered thinking.

What encouragement comes next from this passage?

to Count Others More Significant. Humility is the opposition of selfish ambition and conceit. Instead of looking at ourselves, we should count others more significant.

What is the significance of the word 'count' in this passage?

It means to consider, value, think, esteem, and regard others as more significant and more important than ourselves. Paul gives this command with no qualifications: It does not matter if the person deserves such regard and consideration.

Why is the concept of considering other more significant than ourselves so difficult?

This command was just as challenging in Paul's day as it is in our day. Today, Humility is considered weakness. Humility and counting others more significant than ourselves is not natural and against our self-preserving instincts.

Did God set an example for us on humility?

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Though he is God, he did not consider his deity a reason to operate for his own selfish purposes. He did not cling to his rights. He did not use his deity to his own selfish ambition or personal advantage.

How did God show the ultimate humility as an example for us?

Jesus showed his humility by being obedient, yielding himself to death, even the most horrible way to die: the death on a cross.

What is the reward for those that humble themselves?

God exalts those who humble themselves.

How do we know this?

Verses 9-11 describe the glorious exaltation of Christ after he sacrificed himself for his creation through his death on the cross.

Why is humility so hard for us?

Our problem is that we want the reward now. We want exaltation now, from people, not from God. We want people to pay attention to us. We want people to focus on us. We want people to pat us on the back.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Are you living the Christian life in pursuit of selfish ambition and conceit?
- Or are we counting others more significant than ourselves?
- Do you understand that goes from humble themselves before God will be exalted?
- What steps do we need to take in our lives To humble ourselves before God?

