

BEGINNINGS

"BEGINNINGS" WEEK 4 NOTES **DECEMBER 18**

KEY THOUGHTS

- God went to great lengths to "be with us."

SCRIPTURES

- John begins his gospel with words that take us back to Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning..."
 - Genesis chronicles our birth and creation; John chronicles rebirth and recreation
 - Genesis explains what happened to make world as it is; John explains what happened to make world as it will be
- John 1:14 points to "the Word" being Jesus – so go back and read it that way
- v.1-5 – The life of Jesus is so much deeper than biography.
- v.6-8 – John was simply a mirror of something far better.
- v.9-13 – Jesus offers what no one else would nor can.
- v.14 – God did the unthinkable! The incarnation is a shocking statement and event.
- In the incarnation, dramatic changes happened to the Word:
 - Jesus was trapped in a space.
 - Jesus was tempted.
 - Jesus restrained His power.
- We would tend to look at such limitations in the negative. John didn't:
 - John 1:14 - ...we beheld His glory...
 - John 3:16 - ... whoever believes in Him shall not perish...
 - 1 John 1:3 - ... that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father...
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9 - ...so that you through His poverty might become rich.
- In Jesus, there is so much more than what meets the eye.

PRACTICAL & REFLECTION

- If I've not followed after Jesus until now, would I recognize that Jesus is more than what I've considered? Would I receive this gift He offers of eternal life?
- If I have in the past followed after Jesus, would I recognize that He still is more than what I've considered? Would I allow Him to begin a new work in me?
- God has gone to great lengths to be with me. Will I join Him and invite Him to enter into my life?