

Dear Life Group Leaders,

There is so much in these verses! The first 18 verses of John's Gospel are known as the Prologue. And they serve as an introduction for the rest of the book. John starts big. He unapologetically succinctly introduces some massive theological themes. His Gospel account will go on to explore these in more depth, and we'll get to these in the coming weeks and months. It does mean that this Bible study will touch on many deep and complex topics. But don't be afraid to allow this to fuel curiosity for what's to come. Not every question needs to be answered in this study. Allow this passage to captivate you. Let it fill your gaze with some wonderful truths about Jesus, who he is and what he has come to do.

God bless, take care and stay strong

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 1:1-18

This Week's BIG IDEA: Jesus is the eternal Word made flesh. He comes with life, light, grace and truth.

1. Does anyone know what role John 1:1-18 plays within John's Gospel? How does this inform how we read and understand these verses?
[Leaders note: These verses are the introduction to John's Gospel. John is introducing a bunch of themes and ideas he is going to unpack more fully through his Gospel.]
2. **Please read John 1:1-18.**
3. Break into smaller groups. Have 5 minutes to scan through all 18 verses. Can you spot any repeated words and themes? How do these help us see what John's main points are through these verses? Ask each group to report back on their findings.
[Leaders note: Hopefully your group will spot "the Word", "life", "light", and "grace and truth".]
4. v1, how does John start his Gospel? How does this compare to the other three eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life? Why do you think John starts his account in this way?
5. v1-5, what do we learn about *the Word* in these verses?
[Leaders note: There's lots, so feel free to take your time! You might like to spend a bit of time exploring the imagery, particularly of light and darkness.]
6. v6-8, which John is being referred to here? What do we learn about him? What was his role?
[Leaders note: We learn a lot more about John the Baptist in John 1:19-34.]
7. v9-13, what does it mean that *the true light gives light to everyone*? What different reactions are there to the true light? What is the result of each reaction? What do we learn about those who receive him?
[Leaders note: Jesus brings to this dark world true knowledge, moral purity and light that shows the very presence of God.]
8. v14a, what does this verse tell us about the nature and desire of Jesus?
[Leaders note: He became a man. He did not just appear as a man. He was one of us. He is 100% God and 100% man. Also, that God wants to be with us, like pitching his tent in the middle of the Israelite camp as they travelled through the desert on the way to the Promised Land.]
9. v14b-17, what comparison does John draw out for us in these verses? What do they tell us about the nature of Jesus' work and ministry?
[Leaders note: You might like to draw your Life Groups to consider lessons learnt through our Galatians series last term. Particularly when considering v17.]
10. v18, what is the invitation implied in this verse?
[Leaders note: that if we want to know what God is like, we should look to Jesus. And we can do that through John's Gospel as he tells us more about him. The invitation is to read on!]
11. What are you most excited about exploring in John's Gospel in the coming weeks and months?