



This week's sermon

**Grace and Truth**

***John 1:14-18***

1. God can now be known by men because Jesus took on flesh and dwelt with us in order to reveal God to us.
2. Working definition of *grace*: God's overwhelming kindness and goodness directed towards mankind.
3. Working definition of *truth*: Truth is an attribute within a person, primarily God. Truth goes beyond propositional statements and facts. It is the quality within God that makes Him reliable, and perfectly consistent.
4. The cross that Jesus died upon was the means by which God's grace and truth met to do their greatest work: The kindness of God was displayed in that He took on Himself the punishment for sin that is truly demanded by His righteousness.

## Digging Deeper into the Message

Let's explore the verses before the main sermon text, John 1:1-13. What do you think John was leading his readers to think about with the opening, "In the beginning...."?

Read Genesis 1:1 and think about what that means. Are there any limits on someone who can create like this verse describes?

The Greek word that John used for *word* is *logos*. This has a deeper meaning in the Greek world of John's time. You can spend some time researching the philosophical thoughts about Logos for more insight but here's the Merriam-Webster Definition:

1: the divine wisdom manifest in the creation, government, and redemption of the world and often identified with the second person of the Trinity

2: reason that in ancient Greek philosophy is the controlling principle in the universe

Using this term, *logos*, John was making his gospel accessible to both Jews and Gentiles. What are some ways that we can make the good news of Jesus more relatable or understandable in our current culture?

Reading through John 1:1-5, what characteristics of the Word do you find?

Which of these characteristics are especially comforting or encouraging to you at this time?

Verses 6-8 speak about John. Write out his role in your own words. In what ways do you see yourself doing some of the things that John was called to do? Are there ways we need to think less of how we are perceived and more about pointing to the Light?

Meditate on verses 9 -11. List the things that the True Light does or did.

Memorize verse 12. When you think of the word *believe*, what comes to mind? What in your life demonstrates this belief or trust?

In verse 13, who gets all the credit for us becoming children of God?

## Community Group

**Icebreaker:** What holiday tradition do you most value in celebrating Christmas?

### **Discussion Questions:**

Read John 1:14-18.

**Read the first point.** What does it mean to be known? How does that process work?

What do you think about how John 1:14 ties into the picture of the tabernacle that Pastor Mike talked about?

**Read the second point.** Some people feel like God is watching them to either reward or punish them; how does God's grace fit with this way of thinking? Psalm 136 repeats the phrase, "His steadfast love endures forever," what does this tell you about God's intentions towards you?

How do you define truth? **Read the third point.** What are your thoughts about truth being something that is an attribute of someone?

Read John 14:6, what is Jesus claiming in this verse? What difference does this make in your life?

Tell about a time that you had a misconception about God that was cleared up. How did you react?

**Read the last point.** Even if you've heard this kind of explanation many times, share which part of this causes you to stop and think.

How would you answer someone who tells you that God was wrong to have Jesus die on the cross? How would you explain why Jesus died on the cross to someone unfamiliar with the church?

**Application:** Discuss some different ways that each of you can apply the sermon this week.