

SMALL GROUP LESSON: SEEKING GOD

The Real God, Part 1

Scripture: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed

in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and f is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read through the questions below and pick the ones that may work best for your group. Chances are, you won't need to work through all of these questions. Ask the questions in your own words, don't feel like you need to read them "as is." Feel free to ask your own questions. Keep the overall objective in mind so that no matter what "path" your conversation takes, you end up driving home the objective.

OBJECTIVE

To help your students understand that God's goodness means he wants the very best for us.

1. WARM UP

- Consider some of your longest friendships: how did you get to know one another so well?
- When you want to get to know someone, what kinds of questions do you ask? What do you want to know about someone to know them better?
- Based on what you remember from the message, what are the benefits of seeking God?

2. SET UP THE PASSAGE

How would you feel if someone was telling lies about you, spreading false rumors? What would you want to do? Naturally, you'd want people to know the truth. If you had the chance, you'd speak up for yourself and set the record straight.

Today's passage comes from the very beginning of the Gospel of John. It explains some important facts about Jesus, who He is and why He became a man. Jesus came to earth to "set the record straight." God wants people to know Him as He really is so that everyone can have a relationship with Him.

3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS (focus on scripture)

- Read the passage out loud (consider having a different student read it a second time).
- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Did you find anything confusing or difficult to understand?
- Read Genesis 1:1. What are the similarities between Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1?
- Re-read this passage and make a list of the attributes and actions of the Word, Light, and Jesus.
- In the list you just made, which attribute or action was most surprising for you?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the Word? In your opinion, why did John use this imagery?
- How is John different than Jesus? How is he similar?
- How does a person become a child of God?
- Re-read verse 18. How has Jesus made God the Father known?

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4. APPLICATION QUESTIONS (focus on personal significance)

- John writes, “The world did not recognize him . . . his own did not receive him” (vs. 10-11). Based on your experience, why do many people ignore Jesus? Why would people ignore the Creator who is the light shining in the darkness?
- Incarnation means “God becomes flesh.” Why did “the Word become flesh”? How is the incarnation personally meaningful for you?
- Notice a pattern in this passage: Jesus makes the Father known, and John made Jesus known. How could this play out in your life? How can you make God known to others?
- In sending Jesus, God communicated to us in the clearest way possible: He became human so we can know Him. How do you feel God speaks to you today? Are you a good listener? What do you do to listen well?

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