

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 1: John 1: 1-14

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 1: 1-14 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Given that we learn in our reading that “The Word was in the beginning,” even before Scripture, how might that inform the way you read Scripture (v. 1)?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus “is the true light which enlightens every person” mean to you (v. 9)?
3. Our text says that Jesus came into the world and yet darkness obscured his identity (vv. 5, 10, and 11). How does darkness still obscure his identity today?
4. In order for Jesus to be human it means he has to experience death, emotions, and even temptation. How does that reality change your presuppositions about who God is?
5. Because God became human, we are now able—and invited!—to more fully participate in God’s divine life. This means we experience joy, beauty, spiritual growth, and so much more, in new ways. What are parts of your life where you experience, joy, abundance, and light? What might those things tell you about God?
6. How might what you’ve learned today shape your relationship with God?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 1: 1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.