

.....

Hey small group leaders! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! May you find this season to be a time of peace, joy, and refreshment in His love for you!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

.....

“The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come.”
[Alicia Bruxvoort]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
 - This passage underscores the unique nature of Jesus as the Son of God, emphasizing his role in bringing light and life to humanity. It also touches upon themes of grace and truth, highlighting the transformative power of Jesus Christ and serves as a profound introduction to the theological understanding of Jesus as the Word made flesh.
- **John 1 Commentary & Who Is Jesus, Really?**
 - Use this commentary and blog for background and encouragement. This resource can be shared with your group before and/or after you gather.
- **Christmastide Devotionals**
 - Christmastide begins Christmas Eve at sunset (the end of Advent) and lasts for 12 days, ending on the 5th of January. [HERE](#) are devotions, activities, and Scriptures for Christmastide, starting on Christmas day. To access the rest of the days, simply hover over the heading that says “Twelve Tide Days”. We hope you’ll try these out!

ICEBREAKER || Leader Note *The main goal for the icebreaker is to build joy and gratitude together.*

What is a tradition that you, your friends, and/or your family enjoy doing around New Year’s Day?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note *Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

“But as for me, God’s presence is my good. I have made the Lord God my refuge, so I can tell about all you do.”
[Psalm 73:28]

MAIN POINT || Leader Note Read this aloud as a road map for where the discussion should go.

There is no more important issue in life than seeing Jesus for who he really is and treasuring Him above all else.

PASSAGES || Leader Note Have a couple people read portions of the passage aloud slowly. Consider using Dwell to listen to the passage read aloud as well.

- John 1:1-18

DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share. The questions do not need to be asked in order and not every question has to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit is leading your group! Look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God in the lives of your group!

1. What does v. 1 reveal about the nature of Jesus? *Verse 1 reveals that Jesus, referred to as the Word, existed from the very beginning, was in close relationship with God, and was divine.*
2. How does the concept of the "Word" in v. 1 connect with creation? *The "Word" connects with creation by stating that all things were made through the Word. This emphasizes Jesus' role in the creation of the universe, aligning with the Genesis account of God speaking creation into existence.*
3. How does v. 3 emphasize Jesus' role in creation? *This emphasizes Jesus' role as the Creator, highlighting that everything in existence owes its origin to Him.*
4. How does John v. 5 shed light on the relationship between Jesus and darkness? *This implies that Jesus, the light, has a transformative and victorious impact on the darkness of sin and spiritual blindness. His presence dispels darkness.*
5. How does v. 9-13 describe the reception of Jesus by the world? *This describes that the world, despite being made through Jesus, did not recognize Him. However, those who received and believed in His name were given the right to become children of God, born not of natural descent but of God.*
6. In what ways does v. 12-13 describe the process of becoming children of God? *They explain that becoming children of God involves receiving Jesus, believing in His name, and being born of God, not by natural means but through a spiritual birth. This emphasizes the transformative and relational nature of faith in Christ.*
7. What does John v. 14 mean when it says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"? *It highlights the incarnation of Jesus. The Word, who was divine and present at creation, took on human flesh and lived among humanity. This underscores the extraordinary act of God becoming fully human in the person of Jesus Christ.*
8. What does v. 14 teach us about the nature of God's dwelling among us? *It teaches that God's dwelling among us is not distant or symbolic but involves the tangible reality of the Word becoming flesh. It underscores the accessibility of God's presence through the incarnation of Jesus.*
9. How does v. 16 convey the concept of grace? *This emphasizes the abundance of grace that comes from Jesus. It conveys the idea that God's grace is not limited but continuously and generously bestowed on believers.*

10. How can we apply the truths of this passage in our daily lives and relationship with Jesus? *We can apply these truths by recognizing Jesus as the divine Creator, embracing Him as the unique revelation of God, and receiving Him as the source of grace and truth. Understanding Jesus' role in creation and redemption should inspire worship, gratitude, and a desire to walk in His light.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

There is no more important issue in life than seeing Jesus for who he really is and treasuring Him above all else. ***What is a step of obedience that you can take to live out this passage?***

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your small group each week to pray for the focused area below. You are encouraged to break into smaller groups of 3-4 people if your group is much larger than that.*

Advent – Joy and Love!

- As we celebrate this Christmas season, let's pray for those in our communities who are hurting, and who need to experience true joy through knowing Jesus.
- Let's pray for one another to demonstrate the love of Jesus as we interact with loved ones and friends who might not be connected to life in Christ.

Optional Closing Prayer *This would be a good prayer to read together to close your time OR you can text it to your group afterwards.*

God, grant us
the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas,
which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.