

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## Dave Cover | John 1: 1-18 Sermon Discussion Participants Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** The opening of the Gospel of John gets us imagining what life is like as beloved Children of Jesus.

**Icebreaker:** What is the most mysterious thing you have witnessed?

**Discussion:**

**Transition:** We are going to start a new sermon series looking at the Gospel of John. John was one of the 12 disciples and apart of Jesus' inner circle. He followed Jesus for three years, witnessing His public ministry and the life of Jesus. For these reasons the Gospel of John is different. It's more intimate and has other content the three synoptic gospels don't. Throughout this sermon series we are going to be looking at the mysterious parts of the gospel and the hope of what life in Jesus means now and forever more.

**Read:**

[John 1: 1-3](#)

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.

1. What do you notice from this section of text?  
What stands out to you?  
What questions do you have?

**Read:**

[1 John 1:1](#)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

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Here John is describing some of the behind the scenes of writing the gospel of John. He links why he was writing to what he was writing about. You can see how John's eyewitness account depicts a Jesus more mysterious than the other three accounts.

2. What do you notice? How does this help you understand John 1:1-3 (what you just read?)

In his sermon Dave talked about the truth about how we look at the world today will influence how we read the gospel of John. For example, if we believe in the way the world talks about the divine, using universe language or something similar, then that will impact how we process John 1.

## Re-read John 1:1-5

**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.

## Now read John 1:14

**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.

3. What is John saying here?
4. Do you believe what John is saying?

Sit in that space for just a minute. Allow the tension of our limited understanding and knowledge draw your attention to the apparent contradiction that exists inside of Jesus.

Re-read the above verses. Contemplate what John is saying.

5. What do you feel? How do you feel?

What do you think?

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Can you see how your thinking is shaped by what you are believing/seeing the world today?

John makes mention of a truth that is a bit hard for us to process in the prologue. That some would not recognize the Son of Man. We see this in verses 1:9-10 and later in John 15 & 16. In another gospel account, Mark highlights a story for us about a father whose son was possessed by impure spirits. After witnessing the boy and talking with the father, Jesus challenges his words of “if you can” by responding and saying “everything is possible for one who believes.”

## **Read:**

[Mark 9:24](#), the fathers response.

**24** Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

6. In what areas of your life do you find it hard to believe in Jesus?

How did today’s sermon challenge you?

How did today’s sermon encourage you?

Dave finishes his sermon talking about how following the God of the bible, believing that Jesus is the Word and became flesh gives us hope and meaning. It’s the hope that Jesus is more than our circumstances. The truth that Jesus gives meaning to our ordinary lives. That because we have become children (John 1:12-13) of the Word made flesh we have been endowed with an unimaginable amount of beauty.

7. How does following Jesus give you hope and meaning?

What is something new you learned from today’s sermon?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

Spend some time praying as a group that God would use John’s account of Jesus’ life to further stir your affections for Jesus. Pray that this sermon series would not only teach you interesting and insightful things about Jesus, but that it would move you to believe that Jesus is more.