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The Light and the Word

John 1:1-18; 3:16-21; 12:17-36

Prayer

Begin your Bible study with a brief prayer. Ask God to open your hearts and to help you understand His Word.

Opening Thoughts

John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” That means God loved His creation enough to send Jesus into the world with all of its ugliness and messiness; God loved us enough to put His Son in that mess, among that sin, right beside us.

The Jews had been waiting for a promised one for years. They needed the word to become truth. The Gentiles were walking in the dark without a hope for the future. They needed a light to guide them. It wouldn't be long after a special baby was born in Bethlehem that people, both Jews and Gentiles, began whispering, “Who is this Jesus?”

Discuss the Scripture

Read John 1:1-18

1. Find and list 10 or 12 things this scripture says about “The Word.”

2. Read verse 1 again replacing “the Word” with “Jesus.” What is Jesus’ relationship to God? How might Jesus help us understand God better?

3. “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it” (v. 5). What do you think this verse means? Is this still true today?

4. Can you share about a time when someone or something was a “light” to you?

5. Verse 14 says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” When did this happen and how does it make our relationship with Christ easier?

Read John 3:16-21

1. John 3:16 is a popular memory verse for children and new believers. Why do you think this verse is so special?

2. Does the world view Jesus as one who came to “condemn the world” or to “save the world”? Why?

3. Read verses 19-21 and replace the word “light” with the word “Jesus.” How does this help you better understand who Christ is?

4. Why are humans so apt to love darkness instead of light? Where do you see this portrayed in our society?

5. In what ways can Christians continue to live “by the truth” in “the light” (v. 21)?

Read John 12:17-36

1. How did the principle of life through death apply to Jesus (v. 24)? How does the principle of life through death apply to you?

2. Verse 25 can be confusing. What do you think Jesus is saying here?

3. What does it mean to serve Christ (v. 26)? What are some of the places where serving Christ might take you? What is the end result of following Christ?

4. How was it possible for Jesus to be troubled by “this hour” and committed to it at the same time (v. 27)? How might the same be true for you at some points in your life?

Closing Thoughts

What have you learned in this study that seems the most significant or meaningful to you?

Closing Prayer

As a group, close in prayer, thanking God for what you have learned during this session. Ask Him to continue to speak to you; promise to listen.