

Week of November 23: John 1:1-14

Word in Flesh



Discussion Questions

1. Every culture has stories or fables about a prince, a princess, a king, or a queen who dressed as a commoner and walked the streets to be with the people. Can you think of any such stories? What are the common themes of these stories?

2. How is the beginning of the Gospel of John different from the beginning of the Synoptic Gospels (Matt, Mark, Luke)? Given that the Gospel of John is the latest one written, why do you think John might have begun his story of Jesus in this way?

3. What is John saying about Jesus Christ (the Word) by using the phrase, "In the beginning ..." and the subsequent declarations in John 1:1-5?

[Optional, if your group is interested - That Jesus is fully divine and fully human is one of the core beliefs of our Christian faith. Does anyone know the story of how the Church came to this conclusion? (Search Nicene Creed, Athanasius, Arius)]

4. What was foreshadowed about Jesus's life in John 1:9-11?

5. What was the purpose of God in becoming human in Christ Jesus? John 1:12-13. What other purpose is given in other passages in Scripture? Heb 2:14-18 and Heb 4:15.

7. In 1:14, it reads, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The original word here is 'tabernacled'. Think back to the purpose of the tabernacle in the OT - what did it represent? If God tabernacled among us in Christ Jesus, what might that imply for us as we engage those to whom God has called us to love and serve?

6. Can you think back to a difficult or challenging time in your life when you truly felt that 'God was with you'? Why do you think the mystery of the incarnation is such a profound answer to the problems of humanity? God is with us in the person of Christ Jesus - for those who don't know God, how do you think this idea might be received as an introduction to the Christian faith?