

## **Bible Study 1 – John1:1-18**

### **Prologue**

#### 1. Read John 1:1-18

Is there anything that stands out to you as you read this text? Are there any parts that remind you of other Bible passages? How does this compare with the opening of the other Gospels? Do you have any other specific questions about this passage?

#### 2. Focus on verses 1-5

Why do you think that John starts the Gospel like this rather than including a genealogy like Matthew (which goes back to Abraham) or Luke (back to Adam)?

How is this similar to Genesis 1:1 and what differences do you note?

These verses introduce the themes of life (true life which John often refers to as eternal life (3:15,16,36; 4:14, 36 – and that is just the first 4 chapters)) and also light – we will talk more about these in future studies.

#### 3. Focus on verses 6-13

What does the Gospel writer John say about John the Baptist? How is what he says the same as the other Gospels and how is it different? Why is this important – what do you think the Gospel writer John trying to emphasise?

Read Hebrews 2:10-18 – is this similar to John 1:12-14? Why do you think there such as stress that Jesus was fully human? How does this contrast with the first 5 verses of John 1 and verse 18?

Why is it important that there is the stress on Jesus being both human and divine?

Read John 20:30,31 Do you think that is already being reflected in these verses? If so where? If not why not?

#### 4. Focus on verses 14-18

Read Exodus 19:16-21 – how does this account of God's glory contrast with the verse 14? Are there any significant differences?

read Matthew 17:1-9 – what do you think this is saying about Jesus glory and how might that impact on how you understand this passage?

Read John 8:58. Note the importance of being before someone – the person who comes after someone is the slave or servant walking a respectful distance behind their master.

**John 1:1-18 is like the overture to an opera – it gives you hints of what is to come in the rest of the Gospel and some of its themes.**

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