



PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

WEEK 1: JOHN 1

Warm Up: What trailer/preview really got your attention (and resulted in you watching)? What made it so good?

Intro: The four gospels were written by four different authors with four different audiences in mind. They therefore display different emphases in their accounts.

- *Matthew:* Jewish audience, emphasis on history, Old Testament and Jesus' fulfilment of prophecy.
- *Mark:* Roman audience, shortest account, emphasis on action and Jesus as the Suffering Servant.
- *Luke:* Greek audience, emphasis on evidence, facts and the human aspect of Jesus' life and ministry.
- *John:* all audiences, the latest gospel, emphasis on the cosmic implications of Jesus and a call to faith.

Do you have a favourite amongst the four gospels? (it's okay if you do!) What in particular draws you to it?

1. Read John 1:1-5 and Genesis 1:1-5. What similarities do you notice in these two passages? Why do you think John starts his gospel in this way? [Note: "Word" is a Greek concept ("logos") referring to the fundamental principle/agent of the universe.] **Apply It:** What other "fundamental principles" do people believe in today?

2. Read John 1:6-13. John makes two big claims here: 1) that the "light" (Word) came into the world; 2) some did not receive him, but the ones who did receive him were given the right to become children of God. What does John mean by "receive"/"not receive" him? **Apply It:** How can you communicate to people that Jesus is not merely a concept to talk about, but someone that must be responded to (and with consequences)?

3. Read John 1:14-15. John now speaks of real intimacy with Jesus, e.g. "made his dwelling", "seen his glory". Why would this have been very shocking to John's audience? **Apply It:** Have you experienced this kind of intimacy with Jesus? When have you "seen his glory"?

4. Read John 1:16-18. In what ways is the "grace" of Jesus Christ superior to the "grace" of the law given through Moses? **Apply It:** Some people are still waiting for more evidence/signs in order to know God. How would you respond to them from these verses?

Bring it Home: What are you looking forward to about studying John? What do you hope to learn/grow in?