

## Leader's Guide

Below are some additional insights for the John 1:1-18 passage.

### 1. What descriptions (titles and terms) does John use to introduce the person of Jesus Christ?

the Word, the light, became flesh, Son from the Father,

### 2. What was John the Baptist's role?

As forerunner to Jesus, John was to bear witness to Him as the Messiah and Son of God. With John's ministry, the "400 silent years" between the end of the OT and the beginning of the NT period, during which God had given no revelation, ended. John. The name "John" always refers to John the Baptist in this gospel, never to the Apostle John. The writer of this gospel calls him merely "John" without using the phrase "the Baptist," unlike the other gospels which use the additional description to identify him (Mt 3:1; Mk 6:14; Lk 7:20).

### 3. What does it mean when it says to "darkness"? To "light"?

The references to life, light, and darkness continue to draw on Genesis motifs (cf. Gen. 1:3–5, 14–18, 20–31; 2:7; 3:20; cf. also Isa. 9:2; 42:6–7; 49:6; 60:1–5; Mal. 4:2; Luke 1:78–79). Against this background, Jesus as the "light" brings to this dark world true knowledge, moral purity, and the light that shows the very presence of God (cf. John 8:12; 1 John 1:5).

### 4. What is significant about Christ being the source of light and life?

The true Light ... coming into the world. This phrase highlights the incarnation of Jesus Christ (v. 14; 3:16). enlightens every man. Through God's sovereign power, every man has enough light to be responsible. God has planted His knowledge in man through general revelation in creation and conscience. The result of general revelation, however, does not produce salvation but either leads to the complete light of Jesus Christ or produces condemnation in those who reject such "light."

### 5. What important truth is expressed in John 1:14? What are the implications for your life?

the Word became flesh. While Christ as God was uncreated and eternal (see notes on v. 1), the word "became" emphasizes Christ's taking on humanity (cf. Heb 1:1–3; 2:14–18). This reality is surely the most profound ever because it indicates that the Infinite became finite; the Eternal was conformed to time; the Invisible became visible; the supernatural One reduced Himself to the natural. In the incarnation, however, the Word did not cease to be God but became God in human flesh, i.e., undiminished deity in human form as a man (1Ti 3:16). **dwelt. Meaning "to pitch a tabernacle," or "live in a tent."** The term recalls to mind the OT tabernacle where God met with Israel before the temple was constructed (Ex 25:8).

### 6. Based on these verses, how would you answer someone who claimed Jesus was just a good man or a wise teacher?

The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ is an essential, nonnegotiable tenet of the Christian faith.

1. First, the direct statements of Scripture affirm that Jesus is God.
2. Jesus the divine "Word became flesh" (1:14) is the theme of John's gospel.
3. Third, Jesus Christ possesses the incommunicable attributes of God.
4. Fourth, Jesus Christ does the works that only God can do. He created all things (John 1:3).
5. Fifth, Jesus Christ received worship (Matt. 14:33).
6. Jesus Christ received prayer, which is only to be addressed to God (John 14:13–14).