

What changes your thinking from unbelief to belief?

What are 2-3 core beliefs from this passage? Do you believe them, so much that it makes a difference in the way you live? Why or why not?

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Additional questions are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Doris Sear at dsear@sgc.org



John 1:1-18

Lesson 1
For September 21, 2008

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The Prologue

1. In verses 6-8 John the Baptist (not the author of this book) is identified. What were his authority (6), his purpose (7, 8) and his role (8)?

2. John (the author) begins by establishing the credentials of the one he calls the "Word." Notice that the "Word" is here presented as a person, not as a written document.

In verses 1-2, when did the "Word" exist, with whom was he co-existent and with whom was he equal?

3. John continues by identifying and defending the co-existence and equality of the "Word" with God. Who, explicitly, do verses 3 and 10 identify as the creator? (Compare Colossians 1:15-17)

How does the last part of verse 3 support the concept that the "Word" has existed eternally (was not created)?

How does John the Baptist testify to the pre-birth existence of the “Word” in verse 15?

How does verse 18 support the full deity of the “Word?”
(Compare Hebrews 1:1-3a)

4. Not until verse 17 is the “Word” explicitly identified as Jesus Christ, but what other compelling evidences in these verses support that identification?
(Compare Romans 5:20-21 with John 1:17.)

5. The “Word” in this text is also described as “light.” In verses 5, 10 and 11 what is the reaction of people to the “light?”

But according to verse 12 what other response to the “light” is possible and in what does it result?

6. In verse 13, what does and what does not result in someone becoming a child of God?

7. The “Word”/“light” existed as God and with God from before the beginning but according to verses 9 and 14 what action did the Word/light take?

8. In verses 14, 16, 17 and 18, what does John say are some of the results of the incarnation (God becoming man)?

9. Reflecting on the answers to these questions, how, from these verses, would you defend the doctrine of the full deity of Jesus Christ?

10. From these verses what do you deduce is John’s purpose for writing the gospel? (Compare 1:12 with John 20:31)

Personal Reflection

Jesus is revealed by John as the Word, existing before creation. He is fully God, and fully human. Why is this truth important to your relationship with Christ?

What difference would it make to you if this were not true? What would change in the way you live out your faith?

We have been redeemed out of “darkness” and into the “light,” with the promise and hope of eternal life. If you would have continued in darkness, where do you think you would be today? What has God redeemed you from?