

사제동행세미나: John

The great declaration of the Bible is that God in human flesh was born in Bethlehem. It was God in the person of Jesus Christ who astonished the people of his day with his miracles and amazed them with his teaching. It was God who lived a perfect life and then allowed himself to be put to death on a Roman cross for humanity's sins. It was God who broke the bonds of death three days after he died and came out of the grave alive. The deity of Jesus – the fact that he was God in human form – is the bottom line of the Christian faith.

Reference book: John The Way to True Life, Douglas Connelly, A LifeGuide Bible Study, IVP Connect, 2002.

Encountering the Word (John Chapter 1)

It was a great day in our history when a man first walked on the moon. But the Bible declares that a far greater event took place two thousand years ago: God walked on the earth. God the Son, Jesus Christ, came to live among us as a real human being.

John opens his Gospel with a beautiful hymn of exaltation to Christ. It is one of the most profound passages in the whole Bible. It is written in simple, direct language, but the truth it contains has never been fully explained. We come upon an ocean-sized truth but have to be content to paddle around in shallow water.

1. Why do you think John calls Jesus “the Word” (vv. 1, 14)?

2. In verses 1-5, what facts does John declare to be true of the Word?

Which of these facts most helps you understand who Jesus is?

3. John contrasts Jesus' rejection by the majority with his reception by a few (vv.9-13). What truths about Jesus should have brought the majority to receive him (vv. 9-11)?
4. How would you explain to someone both the meaning and the results of receiving Jesus (vv.12-13)?
5. According to verses 14-18, what specific aspects of God's character are revealed to us through Jesus?
6. Read John 1:19-34. In verses 8 and 9 and again in these verses another John is introduced. He is not the author of the Gospel but John the Baptizer, Jesus' relative, and the one who announced Jesus' coming to the people of his day. What steps does John the Baptist take to guarantee that people will not look at him but at Jesus?

7. How would you summarize John the Baptist's testimony concerning Jesus?

8. Read John 1:35-51. In these verses we are introduced to five men: Andrew, Simon, Philip, Nathanael and one unnamed disciple (John). How does each man respond to the testimony he hears about Jesus?

9. Which of these responses have you encountered as you have shared your faith in Jesus Christ?

10. What would you be most interested in investigating about Jesus if you could go back in time to the events in this chapter?