

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## JOHN 1:14-18

### DISCUSSION 1: GOD WITH US

1. What does it mean that the Word became flesh? As a group, come up with at least seven implications of Christ's Incarnation from John 1:1-18.
2. Jesus is God dwelling among us and with us (1:14). Jesus reveals who God is and what he's like through his human actions and words (1:18). How does this revelation of God in Jesus provide more clarity and intimacy as to who God really is than other ways God had revealed Himself?
3. We often think wrong thoughts about God or misunderstand Him. How can seeing Jesus in the Gospels better shape your understanding of and relationship to God? How can you maximize this study of John to see and know God more?

### DISCUSSION 2: GOD WITH US

1. In the Incarnation, Jesus not only reveals God to us but he dwells among us. He is "God with us." Why is there hope, encouragement, and strength in knowing Christ came to bring God's presence and nearness to us? How might you remember this in loneliness, pain, or struggles?
2. Read Heb. 4:14-16. How does the incarnation of Jesus motivate us to trust him, obey him, know he cares, and turn to him for help?
3. Read John 15:26-27 and 16:7-15. How is Jesus *with us* now through the Holy Spirit? Why don't we experience God's presence more in our day-to-day lives?
4. How might the Incarnation of Jesus affect the way we think about our own presence among unbelievers in our neighborhood or community? How might we rub shoulders more with people and be in and among people living in darkness so we can show and speak about the grace and truth of Jesus?

### DISCUSSION 3: GRACE UPON GRACE

1. Everything we have as children of God (1:12) through Jesus (1:16) is grace upon grace. What are some "graces" in your life from God or where have you recently experienced God's grace?
2. Read John 1:16; Eph. 1:23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19; 2:9. What do you think is meant by the fullness of Christ? How does the fullness of Christ lead to the fullness and fulfillment for everything the believer needs? What is one way you need to trust, look to, and rest in the fullness of Christ for a specific area of need right now?
3. Each week in John we have seen the glory of Christ in different ways. What can you do to not just learn theological truth about Jesus but to allow that to lead you into worship, obedience, and love for others?
4. How is Jesus full of grace and truth? Would you say you lean more towards being a person of grace or truth? How can we better reflect Jesus to others by being full of both grace and truth?

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does “incarnation” mean? *How* can Jesus be God and Man? *Why* must Jesus be God and Man in order to save us?
2. The Bible says Jesus is full of grace and truth. What does that mean? Are there every times you’re not fully truthful or completely gracious? (Thankfully, Jesus has grace for us in our sin if we confess those sins to him.) How can reflect Jesus to those around us by also being full of grace and truth?
3. How does seeing Jesus in the Gospels—his person, work, teachings, miracles—help us better understand what God must be like?

## APPLICATION

- **Group:** One way we glorify God and encourage one another is by noticing and celebrating God’s grace in our life. We know that despite our failures and ongoing trials we receive “grace upon grace” every day. As individuals or families within the group, commit to being on the lookout for ways God’s grace shows up in your life over the next week or two (leading up to your next meeting). Write these down somewhere or share them with a group text or email exchange. In your next meeting, share some of the ways you saw God give you grace upon grace.
- **Individual:** Read the lines of a hymn or song such as “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” or “The Glory of It All”, or pick a couple of your favorite Christmas hymns to read through. How do these songs talk about the incarnation of Jesus? What are some of the purposes and the benefits of Christ coming? Thinking about the incarnation can encourage us to leverage the Advent (Christmas) season to better know Christ and why he came. Begin thinking now about who you can use the month of December to read about the person and work of Christ through an Advent reading plan, serve others around you to bring light into darkness, and make Advent more about receiving and giving grace than gifts. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> for an Advent Night kickoff.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Jesus Reveals God:** John 12:45; 14:6-10; 15:25-26; Matt. 11:27; Heb. 1:2-3; Col. 1:15; 2:9.
- **Incarnation:** 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 1:1-2; 4:2; Luke 1:35; Is. 9:6; Heb. 2:14;
- **The Word:** John 1:1-18; Rev. 19:13; 1 John 1:1-2; Heb. 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 4:4.
- **Humanity of Jesus:** Matt. 1:22-23; 1 Tim. 2:5; Gal. 4:4; John 4:6; 11:35; Heb. 4:15.
- Read the article “10 Things You Should Know about the Incarnation” by Stephen Wellum at [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org).
- Read the article, “World! Get with the Program: Joy! Joy! Joy!” by John Piper at [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org).