

## John 1:1-18 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To help us see more of the greatness of Jesus so that we might marvel at Him and allow Him to change our lives.

**Sermon Refresher:** We all tend to drift away from Jesus, whether that happens by trading Him in for a cheap religious substitute or for something we think will satisfy us. John's prologue (John 1:1-18) helps us understand who Jesus is, giving us a glimpse of His unfathomable greatness. As we begin to grasp more fully who Jesus really is, we won't want to trade him in for anyone or anything else.

**Icebreaker Suggestion:** If you could spend an hour with anyone contemporary or from history (other than God or Jesus), who would you choose and why? What would you want to talk to them about?

**Transition:** Who a person is and how great we perceive them to be really does make a difference in terms of how much we would want to be with them and especially how much weight we would give their opinions. Of course, the same is true of how we think of Jesus and who He is . . .

### **Discussion**

1. In the sermon, Keith mentioned that we take for granted the difference Jesus has made in our world. Specifically, he mentioned that Jesus' life and teaching have changed the ways the world treats children, the sick, the oppressed, and also the ways we view humility and forgiveness. What surprised you or struck you about the ways Jesus has shaped the world we live in today?

Read John 1:1-3 out loud.

2. Keith made the point that no one would ever have come up with this God. We would never figure out who God is on our own. The Word/Jesus is how God has made Himself known. What are some things that Jesus reveals about God that you would have never come up with on your own?

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- **Digging Deeper (optional) question:** Read Colossians 1:15-19 as a parallel passage. What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is?
3. Charles Steinmetz was the mechanical genius who helped Henry Ford develop automotive engines and assembly lines. When he fixed Ford's assembly line problem, he billed him \$10 for tinkering and \$9990 for knowing how and where to tinker. Keith made the point that Jesus knows where to tinker with our lives. The question is: does Jesus have the right to tinker with our lives? If so, what gives Him that right?
    - What do we learn from John 1:1-3 that shows us whether Jesus has that right? (Jesus is the eternal God and that Jesus is the Creator)
    - If Jesus really is the eternal God and our Creator, how does that change the way we respond to him "tinkering" with our lives?
  4. Taking it a step further, Keith asked: "is this the kind of God that you invite into your life to be your assistant?" That's a really challenging question. How would you respond to that?
    - Despite knowing who Jesus is, all of us drift toward making Jesus our assistant instead of our Lord. Why is it foolish to do so?
    - What are the results likely to be if we only allow Jesus to be our assistant? What are the results likely to be if we submit to Jesus as our God?
    - What do you need to remember about Jesus to help you relate to Him as Lord instead of assistant?

Read John 1:4-9

5. Jesus says here that He is the "light that shines in the darkness." How is this truth about Jesus in some ways a challenge, in some ways a comfort?

Read John 1:14

6. Soren Kierkegaard tells the story that likens the humility of God becoming fully human and living among us to a rich and powerful king becoming a peasant in order to win the heart of a peasant girl. The king had to become a peasant in order to test and know if the peasant girl truly loved him or just loved the things

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he could do for her as king. How does this story help us understand God's incarnation in Jesus?

- God certainly didn't come in the way that the people in Jesus' time or our time expect. What are some expectations about God that you have that might lead you to misunderstand or reject Jesus?
- In what ways do we tend to want what Jesus can do for us more than wanting Jesus Himself?

Read John 1:17-18

7. These verses teach us that no God exists except for the God we see in Jesus. How does that change the way you think of God? What's hard to believe about that?

### **Summary Questions**

8. What did you hear in the sermon or read in the passage that helps you to marvel more at Jesus? As you marvel at Jesus, how will that change your life?
9. Whatever we are willing to trade in Jesus for, we are always losing out. What are you most tempted to trade in Jesus for? How would you be losing out by doing so?

### **Sharing and Prayer Time**

This passage teaches us that Jesus is God coming to live among us. The phrase "dwelt among us" means that God came and built His tent with us. This means that no matter what we are going through, God can relate to us and God is with us in it. Ask: where in your life do you need to hear that right now?  
Let each person share and pray for each other.