

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE — WEEK 1

The Gospel of John

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1–2:25

1:1–14 - Jesus is revealed.

The Word became flesh

1:15–28 - Jesus is announced.

Prepare the way

1:29–42 - Jesus is encountered.

Come and see

1:43–51 - Jesus is followed.

Follow me

2:1–12 - Jesus is trusted.

Jesus' glory is revealed

2:13–25 - Jesus is engaged.

What kind of King is Jesus?

As we begin our journey through The Gospel of John, take time with the **Scriptures**, think through the **questions**, process **UP** (our worship) → **IN** (our community) → **OUT** (our neighbors) →, and ask where God may be giving you an **Invitation** (Repent/turn to Him) and a **Challenge** (Believe/live for Him).

*“...these are written so **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” -John 20:31 (ESV)*

SUNDAY — John 1:1–14

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Big Idea:

Jesus isn't merely a teacher, prophet, or example. John introduces Him as the eternal Word—God who entered His creation so that we could know Him.

DISCUSS

1. **John begins his Gospel by going back to “the beginning” (1:1, 2 and Gen. 1:1).** Why do you think he wants us to understand Who Jesus Is?
2. **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (1:14).** What does the incarnation (Christ coming in the flesh/as a human being) tell us about God's desire to make Himself known to us?
3. **John says that the Light (Jesus) shines in the darkness (1:5).** Where do you most need to believe that in your life right now? What about our neighbors and our world?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP — Worship/Jesus:

What does John 1 reveal about who Jesus Is and why this knowledge should deepen your worship of Him?

IN — Community/Church:

We see Jesus bringing His church together (“...who believed in his name...” 1:12). If Jesus came near to us, what does that teach us about how we should move toward our neighbors?

OUT — Mission/Neighbors:

Who in your life needs to encounter the Light of Christ through your words, presence, or actions?

INVITATION

What is God inviting you to believe about Jesus from this passage?

CHALLENGE

What would it look like today to move toward Jesus rather than simply learn about Him?

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MONDAY — John 1:15–28

PREPARE THE WAY

Big Idea:

John the Baptist understands that his role isn't to draw attention to himself, but to point people toward Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. John repeatedly directs attention away from himself and toward Jesus (1:15). Why can it be difficult for us to live that way?

2. John says, “I am not the Christ” (1:20-23). What does it look like to know both who you are and who you are not? How can knowing what God has for you to do and not do, keep you humble and even give you freedom to follow Him more?

3. John was able to have clarity on what he was supposed to do and what he was not supposed to do (1:24-27). What is the difference between being faithful to the role God has given you and trying to become someone you're not?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: How does John's humility point you toward Jesus?

IN: Where might pride, comparison, or the need for recognition be affecting your relationships?

OUT: Who could you intentionally point toward Jesus rather than toward yourself?

INVITATION

What is God inviting you to surrender about your need to be seen, known, or affirmed?

CHALLENGE

Find one opportunity today to intentionally make Jesus the focus rather than yourself.

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TUESDAY — John 1:29–42

COME AND SEE

Big Idea:

John identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the first disciples respond by following Jesus and inviting others to “come and see.”

DISCUSS

1. **What do you think John means by calling Jesus “the Lamb of God” (1:29)?** What does that reveal about Jesus’ mission?
2. **Jesus asks the disciples, “What are you seeking” (1:38, 39)?** Why is that such an important question for anyone considering following Jesus?
3. **Andrew’s first response after encountering Jesus is to find his brother and bring him to Jesus.** What does that teach us about discipleship?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does “Lamb of God” reveal about Jesus and the Gospel?

IN: Who has helped you “come and see” Jesus?

OUT: Who might God be inviting you to bring closer to Jesus?

INVITATION

What are you actually seeking from Jesus right now?

CHALLENGE

Invite someone to “come and see”—come to church, read John with you, join your group, or simply have a conversation about Jesus.

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WEDNESDAY — John 1:43–51

FOLLOW ME

Big Idea:

Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him, and Philip responds by inviting Nathanael to encounter Jesus for himself.

DISCUSS

1. **Philip's invitation to Nathanael is simple: "Come and see" (1:43-46).** Why is a personal encounter with Jesus more powerful than simply winning an argument about Jesus?
2. **Nathanael begins skeptical but ends by recognizing Jesus (1:46-49).** What does his response teach us about bringing our questions honestly to Jesus?
3. **Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see "greater things" (1:50, 51).** What might that teach us about following Jesus as an ongoing journey rather than a one-time decision?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does Nathanael discover about Jesus?

IN: How should Christian community make room for honest questions and doubts?

OUT: Who could you invite to encounter Jesus rather than simply debate about Him?

INVITATION

Where is Jesus inviting you to follow Him more deeply?

CHALLENGE

Take one concrete step of following Jesus today in an area where you already know what obedience looks like.

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THURSDAY — John 2:1–12

JESUS' GLORY IS REVEALED

Big Idea:

Jesus' first sign reveals His glory, meets a real human need, and leads His disciples to believe in Him.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus' first sign happens at a wedding, in the middle of an ordinary human problem (2:1-3). What does this reveal about Jesus' willingness to enter ordinary life?

2. Mary brings the problem to Jesus but doesn't dictate how He should solve it (2:4, 5). What can we learn from her posture?

3. John says this sign "manifested his glory," and the disciples believed (2:11). How do you understand the relationship between Jesus' works and our faith?

UP → IN → OUT →

UP: What does this miracle reveal about Jesus' character and glory?

IN: What does it look like to bring real needs to Jesus within a community rather than carrying them alone?

OUT: Where might God be inviting you to notice and meet a need for a neighbor?

INVITATION

What ordinary area of your life are you inviting Jesus into?

CHALLENGE

Bring one specific need to Jesus today—and trust Him with how He chooses to respond.

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FRIDAY — John 2:13–25

WHAT KIND OF KING IS JESUS?

Big Idea:

Jesus confronts a corrupted approach to worship and reveals that He Himself is the True Temple—the place where God meets His people directly.

DISCUSS

- 1. Why is Jesus so forceful in the temple (2:14-17)?** What does this reveal about how seriously He takes worship and the holiness of God the Father?
- 2. Jesus says, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (2:18-22).** John tells us He was speaking about His body. What does this teach us about Jesus’ Identity and the Gospel?
- 3. The passage ends by saying Jesus “knew all people” and knew what was in man (2:23-25).** How should that shape the way we approach Him (honesty, boldness, humility, etc.)?

UP → IN → OUT

UP: What does this passage reveal about Jesus’ authority, holiness, and identity?

IN: Where can Christian community unintentionally become more about activity, reputation, or religious performance than Jesus?

OUT: How should knowing Jesus sees the heart change the way we represent Him to others?

INVITATION

Where might Jesus be inviting you to clear performance, distraction, or busyness out of your “temple” so He has greater priority and you have less burden and/or more freedom?

CHALLENGE

Ask Jesus to reveal one area where your outward faith and inward life aren’t aligned. Then respond honestly.

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