



Belong

Start the group with an opportunity for community. We want this to be a place where the body of Christ can belong.

- If you feel comfortable, share with the group a high and a low of the past week.-- What's one thing that the group can be praying for you in?
- If I gave you one sentence to try and describe the Trinity, what would you say?

Start the group with prayer.

Believe

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 1:1–18.

The Apostle's Creed has a rather lengthy section about Jesus Christ. In fact, it's more than twice the size of the sections that come before and after it. The creed's author's were communicating something to us in this. The Christ section of the Creed is the longest section because the most essential part of Christianity is what we believe about Jesus.

You can think of it this way, if you get Jesus right, you can get all the rest right. If you get Jesus wrong, it doesn't matter if you get everything else right. If you get Jesus wrong, you get everything wrong.

So, the Creed goes to great effort to introduce us to Christ. More importantly, the Bible goes to great lengths to introduce us to Christ.

No one gives us as good of a look at Jesus as John does in the opening to his gospel. There, we are able to clearly identify Jesus. What we see changes everything!

Jesus is God!

John is very specific in his claims about Jesus: In position, He is God. In personality, He is the Son of God. This is very important to understand if one wants to have an accurate view of Christianity.

Christianity is not just a set of moral instructions. Christianity is not a religion built on improving mankind's behavior. Christianity is the belief that JESUS CHRIST IS, WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE GOD.

This is John's point in calling Jesus the Word. He has always been the eternal word with the Father.

He created everything in the beginning with the Father.

He is God, just like the Father.

Now, as confusing as this is, we must realize that we don't have two Gods. We have one God who shows himself in three persons. We call this the Trinity.

Does it seem hard to understand? It's the mystery of mysteries. However, it's a mystery that should lead us to worship a God who is bigger than we can possibly understand.

Jesus is God Come to Us.

John doesn't just want readers to understand that Jesus is God. He wants us to understand that Jesus is God who has come to us.

While other religions teach that we must strive to get to God, Christianity teaches us something radically different. Christianity teaches that we need not strive because God has come to us!

This is the good news of the gospel. Sinners, God has come to us!

For Discussion:

How does Jesus being God change the way you think about Him and share Him with others?

Why does Jesus have to be both God and man to save us?

BECOME

If we meet Jesus, as John has introduced him, then our lives should change as a result. There simply is no way to meet this Jesus and walk away the same.

Meeting someone like this serves as an orienting kind of moment in our lives.

For example, when we meet someone and fall in love we get married. This is an orienting event. The person we meet changes our life in such a way that our life now becomes oriented around someone else.

While marriage is important, the kind of orientation that happens when we meet Jesus should be far greater. It should be a revolution so big that our lives are forever changed.

Is your life different because you have met Jesus?

For Discussion: What does it look like to orient your life around Jesus in the modern world?