

Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

The Light: Incarnation: Glory Arrives (John 1:14–18)

Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- What big thing have you seen that most impressed you?
- Have you ever gone tent camping? What do you enjoy or not enjoy about it?
- Who is someone who taught you valuable things by example?

Dig

After reading John 1:14–18 together, discuss these questions.

1. John 1:14 makes an amazing announcement: the eternal, divine Word became a human being, just like us. How do you react to that announcement? Wonder? Amazement? Skepticism? Thanksgiving? How does it affect the way you look at life and yourself?
2. “Grace,” the favor God gives to humans who do not deserve it, is a key word in this text. We are reminded that God has always given grace to his people, but that grace comes to its fulfillment and high point in Jesus. What in the story of Jesus reminds you of God’s grace?
3. This text also emphasizes truth: God has always revealed himself to his people, but in Jesus that truth comes to its fulfillment and high point. What truth about God does the story of Jesus emphasize for you?
4. Verse 18 emphasizes that Jesus’ grace-and-truth revelation of God is like a face-to-face vision of God. How does Jesus show God to be different from what we might otherwise think?

Summary: though we cannot ever know God fully, God reveals himself to us so that we can know him truly. Because God the Son became incarnate, fully human, in Jesus, Jesus is God’s greatest revelation of himself. And the whole story of God’s revelation is about his grace. God seeks us and draws us to himself because of his great love for us and despite our willful rebellion against him.

Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Where does the truth of God’s self-revelation sit in your life? In the center? On the periphery? Somewhere in the neighborhood? What do you need to do to bring it where it belongs?
- Grace is wonderful to receive but hard to practice. Where are you struggling to practice God’s grace with others? What can you do to put God’s grace in practice?
- When have you been especially conscious that God is near to you? When do you need to remember it? What helps you to remember that God came near in Jesus and remains near, and how can you keep that truth in your mind and heart?

Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?

- What expressions of God's grace do you want to give thanks for?
- What help from God do you need to live by his grace and truth? Let's pray for those things.