

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This series is designed to help individuals and small groups explore Scripture thoughtfully and honestly. Each session includes three components that work together.

1. Personal Study (Before the Group Meeting)

Participants begin by working through the **Study Guide** during the week.

This guide contains:

- Scripture readings
- background context
- reflection questions
- personal response prompts

The goal is to **engage the Bible personally before gathering with others**.

Participants should take their time reading the material and writing down thoughts, questions, or insights.

2. Group Discussion

When the group meets, the **Discussion Guide** helps facilitate conversation.

The facilitator's role is **not to lecture or provide all the answers**, but to help the group:

- reflect on the Scripture
- share observations
- listen to different perspectives
- deepen understanding together

The discussion guide includes suggested questions and teaching notes to support the conversation.

3. Reflection and Prayer

Each session ends with a brief time of reflection and prayer.

This helps participants move from **information to transformation**, allowing Scripture to shape both understanding and practice.

Suggested Group Format (60–75 Minutes)



Opening & Prayer – 10 minutes

Discussion of the Text – 35–45 minutes

Personal Reflection – 10 minutes

Closing Prayer – 5–10 minutes

A Note for Facilitators

You do not need to be a Bible expert to lead this study.

Your role is to:

- create a safe and respectful environment
- guide discussion through the provided questions
- encourage thoughtful engagement with Scripture

Faithful discussion is often more valuable than perfect answers.



FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

SESSION 1 – THE WORD MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:1–18

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This session introduces participants to the opening of the Gospel of John and explores the central question that drives the entire book: **Who is Jesus really?** The goal is to help learners see Jesus not merely as a historical figure or moral teacher, but as **the eternal Word of God** who reveals the Father and invites us into new life.

INTENDED USE

This lesson is designed for **personal study or group discussion**. Participants are encouraged to complete the personal study portion before the group gathering. The facilitator's role is **not to lecture**, but to **guide reflection, discussion, and application** of the material.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- **Understand why John begins his Gospel differently** than the other Gospels
 - **Explain what John means by calling Jesus “the Word”**
 - **Recognize the key truths John presents about Jesus’ identity**
 - **Reflect on personal responses to Jesus as light, life, and God made flesh**
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FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before leading the session:

- **Read John 1:1–18 slowly and prayerfully**
 - **Review the key themes of the passage**
 - **Reflect on your own response to the question, “Who is Jesus to me?”**
 - **Prepare to create a welcoming, discussion-centered environment**
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SESSION FLOW (60–75 MINUTES)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Welcome participants and briefly outline the purpose of the session.

Open with a prayer asking God for **understanding, openness, and a deeper knowledge of Christ**.



Suggested prayer focus:

- **Gratitude for God revealing Himself**
 - **Openness to truth and transformation**
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2. INTRODUCTION: A DIFFERENT BEGINNING (5–10 MINUTES)

Begin with a broad question to engage the group:

- **When you think about the story of Jesus, where does it usually begin?**

Explain that while the other Gospels begin with genealogy, birth, or ministry, **John begins before creation itself**. Emphasize that John wants readers to understand **Jesus' identity before His actions**.

Key teaching point:

John's opening is not about events first, but about identity first.

3. READING THE TEXT (5 MINUTES)

Have someone read **John 1:1–5** aloud.

Optionally, read the full passage in sections as you move through the discussion.

Encourage participants to listen for repeated words or themes such as **“Word,” “life,” “light,” and “darkness.”**

4. DISCUSSION: THE WORD (10–15 MINUTES)

Key idea: Jesus is called “the Word.”

Discussion prompts:

- **What do you think John is communicating by calling Jesus “the Word”?**
- **How does this title help bridge understanding between faith and everyday life?**
- **Why is it important that the Word is described as a person and not an idea?**

Facilitator insight:

Help participants see that **Jesus is not simply a messenger from God, but God's self-expression**. God speaks Himself to the world through Christ.

5. DISCUSSION: JESUS IS ETERNAL AND DIVINE (10 MINUTES)

Key truths highlighted in the passage:

- **Jesus existed before creation**
- **Jesus existed with God**
- **Jesus is God**



Discussion prompts:

- Why do you think John emphasizes these truths so strongly at the beginning?
- How does this challenge or strengthen your understanding of Jesus?
- What difference does it make if Jesus is truly God and not just a teacher?

Facilitator note:

Allow space for questions and wonder. **This passage is meant to stretch our understanding.**

6. DISCUSSION: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS (10 MINUTES)

Read **John 1:4–5** aloud.

Discussion prompts:

- What kinds of “darkness” do people experience today?
- What does it mean for light to shine in darkness?
- Why do you think darkness cannot overcome the light?

Application focus:

Encourage participants to think personally about where they need **Christ’s light**—in confusion, brokenness, fear, or doubt.

7. DISCUSSION: REJECTION AND RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

Read **John 1:10–13** aloud.

Discussion prompts:

- Why do you think people sometimes fail to recognize God at work?
- What are the two main responses people have to Jesus in this passage?
- What does it mean to “receive” Christ rather than just know about Him?

Key teaching point:

Faith is not merely intellectual agreement; it is trust and personal response.

8. DISCUSSION: THE WORD BECAME FLESH (10 MINUTES)

Read **John 1:14** aloud.

Discussion prompts:

- What stands out to you about the idea that God became human?
- How does this shape the way you think about God’s closeness to us?
- Why is it significant that God chose to dwell among people rather than remain distant?

Facilitator insight:

Emphasize that **Christianity is rooted in God’s nearness**. God enters human experience fully.



9. SEEING GOD THROUGH JESUS (5 MINUTES)

Read **John 1:18** aloud.

Discussion prompts:

- If someone asked you what God is like, how would you answer based on Jesus?
- How does Jesus reveal God's character in a way words alone cannot?

Key takeaway:

To know Jesus is to know God.

10. PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

Invite participants to reflect silently or share briefly:

- What truth about Jesus stood out to you most today?
- How does this passage invite you to respond personally?

Encourage practical application for the week ahead, such as:

- Trusting Jesus more fully
 - Paying attention to where His light is present
 - Reflecting on what it means to live as a child of God
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11. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Close the session by thanking God for **revealing Himself through Jesus**.

Pray that participants would grow in **faith, understanding, and obedience**.

Optional closing prayer focus:

- Gratitude for God's nearness
 - Commitment to follow Christ
 - Openness to continued transformation
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KEY TAKEAWAY FOR FACILITATORS

This session lays the foundation for the entire Gospel of John. **Resist the urge to rush**. Allow participants to sit with the wonder of **who Jesus is**. The goal is not to answer every question, but to **invite deeper faith and curiosity** as the journey through John continues.

