

Core Study #2

Jesus the Author of life

Passage: JOHN 1: 1-18

Background Information:

The Apostle John begins his account of Jesus by quoting the first words found in the book of Genesis ‘In the beginning.’ The coming of Jesus marks a new beginning for the world. John’s use of the word ‘Word’ (logos) was used by the Greeks not only of the spoken word, but also of the unspoken word, the word still in the mind – the reason. When they applied it to the universe, they meant the rational principle that governs all things. The Jews used the word logos as a way of referring to God, the One who governs all things. Therefore John likely used the term logos so that both Greek and Jewish readers would understand who Jesus was.

Leaders’ Preparation:

- Be sure to personally contact every person signed up for your Core to remind them of time and venue.

Using your UCM Leader’s Guide (or you may want to refer to the outline below, **A SUMMARY OF HOW TO PREPARE A CORE STUDY**), read the passage over several times and ask yourself questions of the passage.

Possible Introductory Question:

- Think about how you might begin to explain who Jesus is to someone who has never before known anything about Jesus or Christianity or who has no concept of the existence of God?

Read JOHN 1: 1-18

Discussion Questions (selection to choose from):

- Why do you think the Apostle John began his gospel with the words ‘In the beginning’?
- What is ‘the Word’? Refer to the background information at the top of the page.
- Why do you think it was important for John to begin his gospel by telling readers who Jesus is?
- Last week we looked at John 20:28-31. In this passage John spells out why he wrote this gospel. The author says that by believing in Jesus, we will have life in his name. In light of what we have just read in John 1:1-18, what kind of life do you think the author is talking

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about? (Does this life begin in heaven or is there something of this life that we can experience now?)¹

- Describe someone who you feel exemplifies this kind of life.
- If Jesus is who John says he is, the source of all life, why does it seem that some Christians today appear more dead than alive?

Application Question:

- Your classmate or dorm mate asks you to explain to them who Jesus is to you. What would you say to them?

A SUMMARY OF HOW TO PREPARE A CORE STUDY

1. WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? OBSERVATION

Read the passage and surrounding passages **many times** & take notes. Be a Sherlock Holmes when it comes to Scripture.

get the big picture

2. DIG INTO THE DETAILS – MORE OBSERVATION

ASK:

- **Who:** Who is involved?
- **What** is happening in the passage?
- **When** is this taking place during Jesus' ministry? What time of the day?
- **Where** is this passage taking place and is that significant to the story or passage?
- **Why** might God have had this passage recorded in His Word? What is its significance?

The importance of asking yourself questions cannot be over stressed. Take time, like a detective, to understand as much about your chosen passage as possible.

LOOK: Are there ...?

- Repetitions of words:
- Symbolism/figurative language used?: (light, darkness, water, wind)
- Comparisons made:
- Contrasts:

¹ In John 1:4 and later in 14:6 John says life comes from Jesus and that Jesus is 'the life'. The word life is used 36 times in the gospel of John.

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WATCH: Note significant ...

- Nouns:
- Verbs:
- Connectives: (And, because, but, therefore)

3. WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US HERE AND NOW, TODAY? INTERPRETATION

Once again we need to apply some basic rules:

- A text cannot mean what it could never have meant to its author or his readers.
- We must be aware of cultural differences that may exist between the 1st century and the 21st century.

Ask some simple questions:

- Were there any words you didn't understand? Define them
- Did the author use figurative language? What does it symbolize?
- Were major ideas presented? Was reference made to the Old Testament and do you need to look up the passage to understand the point being made.
- Did you encounter any words/passages you did not understand? You will need to use helps to discover their meaning.
- Write out in your own words what you feel is the main message of the passage.

4. CHECK YOUR INTERPRETATION WITH ONE OR MORE GOOD COMMENTARIES. DOES WHAT YOU HAVE AGREE WITH THE COMMENTARY? DO YOU NEED TO RETHINK YOUR INTERPRETATION?

5. HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME/US TODAY? APPLICATION

- Use **SPECS** to help you apply God's Word to you and your Core.
 - (Application)
 - Is there **Sin** to confess?
 - Is there a **Promise** to claim?
 - Is there an **Example** to follow?
 - Is there a **Command** to obey?
 - **Is there Some action I need to take?**