



The Word Became Flesh John 1:1-28

Icebreaker:

1. What are some of the favorite verbal expressions which you like to use in your everyday life?

View and Read John 1:1-28

Exploring the Word

1. Who is the Word and what is the relationship between the Word and God (v 1-2)?
2. What was the Word's role in creation and giving life (v 3)?
3. How did the world initially respond to Jesus (v 10-11)?
4. What is the benefit of receiving and believing in Jesus (v 12-13)?
5. Why do you think Jesus is described as "full of grace and truth" (v 14, 17)?
6. What did John the Baptist say about himself and Jesus (v 6, 19-27)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your faith journey today? What do you need to do to be certain about your relationship with God?
2. How should the reality that Jesus came to earth in the flesh affect your life today?
3. What are some areas in your life where you struggle to be humble?
4. As you look at your life, what are some of the implications for your priorities, actions, and decisions if you **really believe that Jesus** is the Word; Jesus is God, Jesus did participate in creation; Jesus did become flesh and dwelt among us; Jesus gives certain people the right to become God's children, etc?
5. In what ways can you be a voice for Jesus (in some way(s) like John the Baptist)?

Next Week: John 1:29-50



Jesus the Lamb of God, and Jesus' First Disciples John 1:29-51

Icebreaker:

1. What can you infer about someone from his or her title (such as doctor, officer, pilot, professor, prince, etc)? What titles are most meaningful and/or important to you?

View and Read John 1:29-51

Exploring the Word

1. Why did John call Jesus the Lamb of God (v 29)? Why do you think this is such a significant title for Jesus Christ, the Messiah?
2. What did John mean that Jesus surpassed him because He was before Him (v 30)?
3. What title did John ascribe to Jesus, the person he baptized (v 34)?
4. What did John say when he saw Jesus and how did John identify Jesus for his disciples? What did John's disciples do when John identified Jesus (v 36-37)?
5. What was the first thing Andrew did after he had followed Jesus? What did Andrew tell his brother about Jesus (v 40-41)?
6. How did Philip respond to Jesus' invitation (v 44-46)?
7. Why was Nathanael skeptical that Philip had found the Messiah? What convinced Nathanael that Jesus was the Son of God (v 46-50)?

Applying the Word

1. If you really believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God, how will this change or impact your life in terms of receiving forgiveness and living life?
2. In what ways are Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael like and/or unlike you after being newly introduced to Jesus? As you look at how they followed Jesus, do you see any "take-aways" on how you should follow Jesus?
3. What implications could/should the example of the first disciples have on your life? Are you following Jesus as a disciple? How is your discipleship affecting your actions? How should it affect them?
4. Optional: Take time to praise and thank Jesus for being the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the King of Israel, or something else revealed about Him in John 1.

Next Week: John 2:1-11



Jesus Changes Water to Wine and Clears the Temple John 2

Icebreaker:

1. Does your mother ever put pressure on you? In what ways?
2. In your opinion, what makes an event miraculous or supernatural?

View and Read John 2

Exploring the Word: Jesus' Wedding Miracle (John 2: 1-11)

1. Where was the wedding and who attended?
2. What did Jesus' mother say to Him and what was His response?
3. What steps did Jesus take and who did He talk to in performing this miracle?
4. What was the quality of the outcome and comments about Jesus' miracle?
5. How did it impact His disciples?

Exploring the Word: Jesus Clearing Out the Temple (John 2: 12-25)

1. What time of the year was it when Jesus went to Jerusalem?
2. What did Jesus find going on in the temple courts?
3. How did Jesus respond to what He saw?
4. What did Jesus' actions remind His disciples about?
5. What can we learn from Jesus' follow-up conversations with the Jews in the temple courts and during the Passover Feast? How did the people and His disciples respond to these conversations and miracles?

Applying the Word

1. What did you learn about Jesus' character and priorities from the wedding and temple events? What impact should this new knowledge have on your priorities?
2. How is the miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine significant to you? What things would you like for Jesus to change in your life? What "take-away's" from this miracle can you apply in your own life?
3. Does the event of Jesus clearing out the temple provide any warnings or guidelines about priorities we should have in our own lives? What do you think Jesus would say or do if He were to visit your home, work area, church, or fellowship group?

Next Week: John 3



Jesus Teaches Nicodemus about Being Born Again John 3:1-21

Icebreaker:

1. What is the best gift you have ever received?

View and Read John 3:1-21

Exploring the Word

1. Describe Nicodemus and the time he chose to talk with Jesus. How would you describe Nicodemus?
2. Why did Nicodemus believe that Jesus was from God?
3. What did Jesus say was the requirement for a man to see the kingdom of God?
4. Whom did Jesus say had gone into heaven, and in what way did Jesus compare Himself to Moses' snake in the Old Testament (see also Number 21:4-9)?
5. How did God demonstrate His love for the world, and why did God send His Son into the world?

Applying the Word

1. Have you been born again? If so, how do you know? How has this affected your life? If not, what can you do about this?
2. What aspects of a person's life demonstrate that he or she has been transformed by this new birth? To what extent does this happen all at once, and to what extent does this happen over time?
3. Look at your own life. How has the new birth transformed you? What areas of your life still need to be transformed by God?
4. How is John 3 a model for evangelism? How can you present these truths in a way that your friends will understand them? Ask God to give you wisdom about this. Commit yourself to praying for a friend to be born again and how God might use you in that process.
5. Meditate on what John 3:16-17 says about God, the Father and praise God for His love and saving grace. Let this truth really sink in. What difference does (or should) this make in your attitudes and priorities? Is there any deep rooted anger or fear in you that makes it hard for you to fully believe this truth about the Father? If so, confess this to God. You might ask someone else to pray with you about this.

Next Week: John 3:22-36



John the Baptist's Testimony About Jesus John 3:22-36

Icebreaker:

1. How would you feel if a friend received more recognition than you for something you both did?
2. What makes someone's testimony about an event seem either credible or non-credible?

View and Read John 3:22-36

Exploring the Word

1. What did Jesus do with His disciples in the Judean countryside (v 22)?
2. What was John the Baptist doing at Aenon (v 23)?
3. What was the issue which John the Baptist's disciples brought up to him and why do you think they brought up this issue (v 25-26)?
4. How did John the Baptist respond to this issue and what can we learn about John the Baptist from his response (v 27-30)?
5. What did the people do who accepted Jesus' testimony (v 33)?
6. What has the Father (God) done for the Son (Jesus) and for those who believe in the Son (v 35-36)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you regarding believing in Jesus, the Son of God? What is hanging in the balance (v 36), and what are the benefits and consequences either way?
2. Why is it sometimes hard to give God the credit? In what way(s) in your life do you need to change to be more consistent in giving God the credit?
3. How can we certify that God is true in our lives (v 33)? What can you do this week to show that God is truthful in your life?
4. Does John the Baptist's attitude toward himself and his ministry, and toward Jesus and His ministry, suggest any example to follow in your life? Do your actions and heart reflect verse 30? Pray about how you can grow in this area.

Next Week: John 4



Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman John 4:1-42

Icebreaker:

1. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?

View and Read John 4:1-42

Exploring the Word

1. Why did Jesus sit down by Jacob's well (v 4-6)?
2. What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman (v 7), and why was she surprised that Jesus spoke to her (v 9)?
3. How did Jesus answer the Samaritan woman's question (v 9-10)?
4. What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water which He offered (v 13-14)?
5. How did Jesus show that He was the promised Messiah (v 17-18, 26)?
6. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus (v 28-29), and how did the Samaritans respond (v 39-42)?
7. What did Jesus say was His food (v 34)?

Applying the Word

1. How are people's needs for salvation, eternal life, and a relationship with God like thirst? How have you responded to Jesus' invitation to receive His living water or are you still on the impossible quest of trying to quench your own thirst?
2. Who are the "Samaritans" in your world? How can you treat them as Jesus treated the Samaritan woman? What would help such a person to recognize and believe in Jesus?
3. Is Jesus' living water springing and welling up inside of you? How is its presence or absence affecting your life? What can you do to allow the living water to well up inside you (v 14)?
4. When Jesus confronts you with sin and failure in your life, do you ever change the subject as the Samaritan woman did (v 17-20)? Pray about this. When Jesus confronts you, why does He do it, and how does He want you to respond?

Next Week: John 4:43-54, 5:1-15



Jesus Heals the Official's Son & the Healing at the Pool John 4:43 – 5:15

Icebreaker:

1. What are some things that people believe in that they either haven't seen or can't see?

View and Read John 4:43 – 5:15

Exploring the Word

1. Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus (v 45)?
2. What did the royal official ask Jesus to do (v 47)?
3. How did Jesus healing of his son transpire and what did this show about Jesus' power? How did it impact the royal official's household (v 50-53)?
4. What did Jesus ask the invalid man (v 6)? Why do you think He may have asked him that?
5. How did this healing transpire (v 7-9) and how did the Jewish people respond?
6. What did Jesus tell the man He had healed on their second encounter (v 14)? Why do you think Jesus said that to him?

Applying the Word

1. Are you in a position kind of like the royal official? If so, speak your desire to Jesus with the same persistence and faith, and trust His word of response (v 50). Ask God for this trust and think more about and meditate on 4:50.
2. Are you sometimes only looking to Jesus to solve your problems in life? Or do you desire a deeper relationship with Him? What do you think a deeper, more mature faith is based on? What would be some of the implications in your life of having a deeper, more mature faith?
3. Can you think of any areas of your own life where you are like the invalid man? Ask yourself Jesus' question in 5:6. Then ask yourself (and God) what you should do about your answer. Also, does Jesus challenge to the now healed man in 5:14 strike any chords with you? Pray about how you should respond to that kind of challenge in your own life.

Next Week: John 5:16-47



Authority of the Son, Witnesses to Jesus John 5: 15 – 47

Icebreaker:

1. What makes someone's testimony valid or invalid?

View and Read John 5:15-47

Exploring the Word

1. What did Jesus say in response to the Jews persecuting Him about healing people on the Sabbath (v 17)?
2. What did Jesus say that the Son (Himself) could do (v 19)?
3. To whom did God entrust judgment and why (v 22-23)?
4. Who and what testifies that Jesus was and is the Son of God (look for 4, v 31-40)?
5. Why did the Jews study the scriptures, but what did they miss (v 39-40)?
6. What affect should Moses' writing have had on the Jews (v 46-47)?

Applying the Word

1. If we really believe that God and Jesus are always working, how should this impact our lives (v 17)?
2. What key take-away's from John 15 can help you better honor the Son and the Father with your life (v 22-23)?
3. Do you trust God to bring you from death to life by hearing Jesus' words and believing in God who sent His one and only Son Jesus Christ (v 24)?
4. Consider Jesus' example in 5:30. How can you apply this to your life? Ask God to show you how you can follow Jesus' example of seeking not to please yourself but God.

Next Week: John 6:1-24



Jesus: Feeding the 5,000; Walking on Water John 6: 1 – 24

Icebreaker:

1. What is the most difficult or most frightening situation you have ever experienced?

View and Read John 6: 1 - 24

Exploring the Word

1. Why were the crowds following Jesus (v 2)?
2. What does Jesus' statement regarding food for the people tell us about Him (v 5-6)?
3. What steps did Jesus take in performing this miracle to feed the 5000 (v 10-13), and how did the people respond (v 14)?
4. What did the disciples and Jesus do next (v 15-17)?
5. What miracles did Jesus perform next, and what does this show us about His power (v 18-21)?
6. How did the crowds respond (v 22-24)?

Applying the Word

1. How and when has God provided miraculously for your needs? What tough situation do you need to trust God to work out in your life these days?
2. Consider how Jesus delivered the disciples from the scary storm on the lake. What fears has God calmed in your life? What fears do you still need to trust God to calm in your life these days?

Next Week: John 6: 25-70



The Bread of Life, Words of Life Eternal John 6: 25 - 70

Icebreaker:

1. What kind of bread do you like the most?
2. How do people attempt to satisfy their need to feel secure and significant in life?

View and Read John 6: 25 - 70

Exploring the Word

1. Why did the people look for and find Jesus (v 26)? What did Jesus challenge them to work for, and what did He say He would give them (v 27)?
2. What did Jesus say was the work of God (v 29)?
3. Who did Jesus say was the true bread of heaven (v 32-33, 48-51)?
4. What did Jesus say would be the result of coming to Him (v 35)? Why do you think that is true?
5. Who is in control of who comes to Jesus, and what kind of security do we have in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ (v 35-47)?
6. The things Jesus said about His body caused some confusion among the Jews. What do you think Jesus was communicating about His body (v 48-59)?
7. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' "hard" teaching (v 60-70)?
8. Who did Jesus say could come to Him (v 65)?
9. How did Peter respond to Jesus' question regarding commitment (v 68)?

Applying the Word

1. Are you still looking for sustenance in anything less than the true Bread of Life (Jesus)? Or, have you eaten and drunk Jesus once for all, and do you eat and drink Jesus regularly? How is this affecting your life?
2. Are there any difficult teachings of Jesus which are challenging your thoughts and actions today? Talk with someone about it. Ask God to help you understand better and apply to your life.

Next Week: John 7: 1-44



Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles, Attempted Arrest John 7: 1 - 40

Icebreaker

1. When have you judged someone or something on appearance alone to find out later that you were wrong?

View and Read John 7: 1 - 40

Exploring the Word

1. What did Jesus' brothers tell Him to do and why? What was His response (v 1-10)?
2. Why did Jesus say the world hated Him (v 7)?
3. What were the people at the feast saying about Jesus (v 12-13)?
4. How did Jesus describe His teaching and how did Jesus say someone could discover whether or not His teaching came from God (v 16-17)?
5. What was a stumbling block of some of the people regarding Jesus being the Messiah (v 27, see also Micah 5:2)? What was Jesus' response (v 28-29)?
6. When the Jews tried to seize Him at this time, why were they not able to lay a hand on Him (v 30)?
7. What did Jesus say on the last and greatest day of the feast (v 37-39, see also Isaiah 12:3 and John 14:25-26), and how did the people respond?

Applying the Word

1. Do you ever struggle with the tension between humility and trusting God's timing versus self-promotion? What can we learn from Jesus' example in John 7 about how to live?
2. How does a person choose to do God's will (v 17)? What does this involve (or look like) in your life?
3. What specific thirst or longing do you need to trust Christ to satisfy this week in your own life (v 37)?
4. What is the most personally significant truth you found in chapter 7? How would you like this truth to affect your life? How do you need to grow in this area?

Next Week: John 8



The Adulterous Woman, the Light of the World John 7: 45-52, 8:1-30

Icebreaker:

1. What sins do most people think they are incapable of committing (or very unlikely to commit)?

Read John 7: 45 – 52, 8:1-30

Exploring the Word

1. How can we infer that the temple guard recognized Jesus' authority and why didn't he arrest Jesus (v 46)?
2. In what way did Nicodemus stick up for Jesus (v 50)? Can you draw any conclusions from this on where Nicodemus was on his spiritual journey?
3. What claim did the Pharisees make about Galilee and what had they forgotten about Bethlehem (v 52, see also Micah 5:2)?
4. How did Jesus respond to the situation surrounding the woman caught in adultery (8:1-8)? How did the teachers of the law and Pharisees respond (v 9)? What challenge did Jesus give to her (v 10-11)?
5. What did Jesus claim about Himself, and what did He say would be the result of following Him (v 12)?
6. Why did Jesus say His own testimony was valid (v 14)? What two witnesses did Jesus say testified on His behalf (v 17-18)?
7. At what point did Jesus say that the people would know who He was (v 27-28), and how did the people respond (v 30)?

View John 7: 45 – 52, 8:1-30

Applying the Word

1. Are there any self-righteous attitudes which you need to confess to the Lord today and ask Him to change in your life?
2. If you really believe that Jesus is "the light of the world" (8:12), how should that impact your life?
3. Why is the testimony about Jesus credible to you (8:14-18)? What impact should that have on your life today?

Next Week: John 8: 31-59



Truth Will Set You Free; Jesus and Abraham John 8:31-59

Icebreaker:

1. To what sort of things do people today become enslaved?

Read John 8: 31-59

Exploring the Word

1. What did Jesus say to the Jews who had believed in Him about His teaching and truth, and how did they respond (v 31-33)?
2. Who did Jesus say is a slave to sin and how can we be free (v 34-36)? What are the differences between being a slave and a son?
3. Why did Jesus say that His language was not clear to them, and what did He say was the devil's native language (v 43-44)? What would it take for them to hear what God says (v 47)?
4. What did the Jews accuse Jesus of, how did He respond, and what promise did He make (v 48-51)?
5. What truth claim did Jesus make about Himself (regarding Abraham et al), and what happened as a result (v 58-59, see also Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 41:4, 43:10, 46:4; and John 4:26)?

View John 8:31-59

Applying the Word

1. Are there any sins which currently have a strong hold on you? How can/should you respond by God's power and grace (see also I John 1:9, I Corinthians 10:13)?
2. How can you strive to seek God's glory rather than your own glory in your life, work/career, and family (see also John 8:42 and 50)? What is one way you can honor God with your life today?
3. If you really believe Jesus' truth claim about Himself (v 58, "Before Abraham was born, I am"), how should that impact your life?

Next Week: John 9: 1-12



Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind John 9:1-12

Icebreaker:

1. In what way would being blind change your life?

Read John 9: 1-12

Exploring the Word

1. What question did Jesus' disciples ask Him about the blind man? What was Jesus' response, and what truths can we gain from this (v 1-4)?
2. How did Jesus tie this situation to His mission (v 5)?
3. What steps did Jesus take in healing this man (v 6-7)? Why do you think He did it this way?
4. How did the man and the other people respond to Jesus' miracle (v 8-12)?

View John 9:1-12

Applying the Word

1. Has God ever healed or changed you in areas of your life? Do you still need God to heal or change you in any areas of your life? How can you be a more willing participant (see also Philippians 1:6)?
2. The blind man did exactly what Jesus said to do. Are you lacking in obedience in any areas of your life? What needs to change for you to be more obedient to the Lord in your life?
3. Ask God to show you whether any afflictions or trials in your life are the consequences of sins you need to repent of, or whether they are character building exercises or opportunities to share in the sufferings of Jesus (see also James 1:2-4, Philippians 1:29)? If you feel convicted of sin, confess and know that you are forgiven (see also I John 1:9) even if your symptoms do not go away immediately. Ask God to display His work through the afflictions of your life (see also John 9:3).

Next Week: John 9: 13-34



Pharisees Question the Blind Man John 9:13-34

Icebreaker:

1. Do you know anyone who has challenged “the system” or upset your status quo? What did you learn from them?

Read and View John 9: 13-34

Exploring the Word

1. On what day did Jesus heal the blind man, and what did the Pharisees ask the man (v 14-15, 17)? Why do you think this was such an issue with them?
2. Over what were the Pharisees divided (v 16)?
3. Why did the Pharisees send for the formerly blind man’s parents and how did his parents respond (v 18-23)?
4. How did the formerly blind man respond to the second questioning from the Pharisees (v 24-34)? What convinced this man that Jesus was from God (v 33)? What truths about God and Jesus can we learn from Jesus’ miracle and this man’s testimony?

Applying the Word

1. In what ways has Jesus changed the status quo in your life? What take-away’s do you see in this passage? How can you apply it to your life?
2. The formerly blind man spoke truth in a difficult situation and paid a price even after receiving his sight (see v 34)? Is there anything holding you back from believing and/or speaking the truth of Jesus and living for Him? What are the costs and rewards and which matter the most? How should you live differently based on what you’ve learned today?

Next Week: John 9: 35-41, 10:1-21



Spiritual Blindness, Jesus the Good Shepherd John 9: 35 – 41, 10: 1 - 21

Icebreaker:

1. What qualities do the best shepherds possess?

Read and View John 9: 35-41, 10:1-21

Exploring the Word

1. What dialogue did Jesus have with the formerly blind man, and how did he respond (v 35-38)?
2. What was another reason Jesus said about why He came into the world (v 39), and how did the Pharisees respond?
3. How did Jesus describe and contrast the good shepherd with the robbers and strangers (v 1-6)?
4. Jesus called Himself the gate (v 7-10). In what ways is that true, and how does it impact us?
5. Jesus also called Himself the good shepherd (v 11-18)? In what ways is this true, and how does that impact us?
6. How did the people respond to these words (v 19-21)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your faith journey today regarding believing and trusting in Jesus and experiencing Him as your gate and your good shepherd?
2. Do you know the difference between the good shepherd’s voice and the voices of imposters (v 3-5, 14)? What is the evidence in your own life? How can you grow better able to distinguish the good shepherd’s voice from clever imitations?
3. Are you following the good shepherd as closely as a sheep would (v 4)? How could you improve in this area? What are the implications for your priorities and choices?

Next Week: 10:22-40



Jesus is Rejected John 10: 22 – 42

Icebreaker:

1. What truths are hard for you to accept? Why?

Read and View John 10:22-42

Exploring the Word

1. What question did the Jewish people ask Jesus, and what was His answer (v 24-30)? What spiritual truths can we learn from His answer?
2. How did the Jewish people respond to His answer, and what dialog followed (v 31-37)?
3. Why did Jesus say that the Jewish people should believe in His miracles (v 38)?
4. How did the Jewish people then respond and what happened then (v 39)? How did many on the other side of the Jordan River respond (v 40-42)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your faith journey today regarding believing and trusting in Jesus as your shepherd? What security can we find in the Lord (v 28), and how should this impact our life? What steps will you take in your life to follow your Shepherd more closely?
2. Consider what Jesus does when threatened with imminent death (v 31-32, 39). What can we learn about Jesus' character from this? How should His response impact our life and character?
3. Jesus says of a seemingly insignificant bit of a Psalm (Psalm 82:6) that "the Scripture cannot be broken". What does that imply about His view/knowledge of the Scriptures and what our view/knowledge of the Scriptures should be?

Next Week: 11:1-27



Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life John 11: 1 – 27

Icebreaker:

1. When has someone you've known died unexpectedly? How did it impact you?

Read and View John 11:1-27

Exploring the Word

1. Why did Jesus say that Lazarus was sick? Why do you think He waited two more days before going to see Lazarus (v 4-6)?
2. In what ways did the disciples misunderstand Jesus (v 8, 12)?
3. Why did Jesus say He was glad He was not yet there with Lazarus (v 14-15)?
4. What situation did Jesus encounter when He arrived, and how did He respond (v 17-24)?
5. What great truth statement did Jesus make about Himself, and what challenge did Jesus give to Martha (v 25)?

Applying the Word

1. If you really believe Jesus' truth claim of being the resurrection and the life (v 25-26), how should that impact your life? How should you live differently?
2. Jesus waited two days before going to see Lazarus (v 6)? Is there anything you are waiting on God for these days or any area of your life which you need His powerful intervention? How can this real-life situation with Martha and Lazarus teach us more about patiently waiting on the Lord or depending more fully on Him?

Next Week: 11:28-45



Lazarus Brought to Life John 11: 28 – 45

Icebreaker:

1. What sort of miracle would be the most spectacular to witness?

Read and View John 11:28-45

Exploring the Word

1. When Mary heard from Martha that Jesus was asking for her, how did Mary respond, and what did she do/say when she saw Jesus (v 29, 32)?
2. How did Jesus respond to Mary and the others' weeping (v 33-35)? What does this show us about Jesus?
3. How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, and how did the people react (v 38-45)?
4. What statement did Jesus make in v 41-42, and why did He make it?
5. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is the last and greatest of Jesus' documented sign miracles before His own resurrection. What does it reveal about ...
 - Jesus (and the Father's) character, personality, and values?
 - Jesus' mission?
 - Jesus' identity?
 - What implications does this event have for Mary, Martha, and you?

Applying the Word

1. What is one miracle God has done in your life in the past? What did you learn?
2. Are you facing any seemingly impossible situations in your life these days? How does this amazing and powerful miracle of Jesus help to strengthen your faith in the midst of life's challenges? How then, should you live as a result?

Next Week: 11:46-57



The Plot against Jesus John 11: 46 – 57

Icebreaker:

1. Have you ever felt like (or known) that people were out to get you? How did you react?

Read and View John 11:46-57

Exploring the Word

1. Observe how the Jewish people and their leaders reacted to the news of the incredible miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (v 45 – 48). What was wrong with their values and their approach to the facts?
2. What do you think Caiaphas meant by his statement (v 49-50)? What was the deeper meaning which John described and God ordained (v 51-52)? How did the chief priests and the Pharisees respond to Caiaphas' statement?
3. How did this impact Jesus' ministry in the short term? What was the potential result?

Applying the Word

1. Are you in anyway(s) like the chief priests and the Pharisees? What self-centered motives or desires for control will you ask God to help change in your life?
2. In a similar way that God guided and directed Jesus while He was on earth, God also desires to guide and direct our lives. Are there any areas of your life which you are being disobedient to God or any areas which you need to surrender to Him and His will?

Next Week: 12:1-11



Jesus Anointed at Bethany John 12: 1 – 11

Icebreaker:

1. How do you deal with the tension that sometimes exists between helping and serving others and also providing for yourself and your family?

Read and View John 12:1-11

Exploring the Word

1. Describe the dinner which Jesus attended (v 1-2) ... where was it, who was there, what was it like, and why did they have it?
2. What extravagant thing did Mary do (v 3, 7-8)? Why?
3. Why did Judas object, and was it a reasonable objection (v 4-6)? How did Jesus respond during this teachable moment (v 7-8)?
4. Meanwhile ... how were the Jewish people responding (v 9-11)?

Applying the Word

1. Are you inclined to feel that Mary's act was sincere worship or an extravagant waste of what could have been spent on the poor? Why or why not? Was this a unique situation, or does it have relevance for our priorities today? Judas' pretended altruism and compassion was really selfishness. Do you or others ever fall into this trap? If so, how?
2. How can you worship and honor God with your resources today? What impure motives do you need to confess to God and ask Him to purify?

Next Week: 12:12-50



The Triumphal Entry, Jesus Predicts His Death John 12: 12 – 50

Icebreaker:

1. When have you set aside your own needs to meet the needs of others?

Read and View John 12:12-50

Exploring the Word

1. In what way did Jesus enter in Jerusalem and why/how did the people greet Him (12-19)? What was significant about Jesus fulfilling this prophecy?
2. Though this was now an opportunity for Jesus to become a political king, how did Jesus and God respond and what challenge and encouragement did He give to His disciples (v 20-36)?
3. Why couldn't these Jews of Jesus' day believe in Him (v 37-40)? For those leaders who did believe in Jesus, why did they not openly confess their faith (v 42-43)?
4. What truths did Jesus "cry" out about believing, looking, hearing, being saved/condemned, and eternal life (v 44-50)?

Applying the Word

1. Do you ever struggle with accepting God's will in your life rather than your own desires? What can you learn and apply from Jesus' example?
2. Reflect on John 12:25-26 ... where are you on your faith journey today? Do you love your own life more than a close relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ? What steps are needed in your life today?
3. Does John 12:42-43 apply in your life? Why or why not? If so, reflect on how you are living your life, repent of your selfish motives, and ask God to give you strength and show you how to live life differently?

Next Week: 13:1-20



Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet John 13: 1 – 20

Icebreaker:

1. What is your idea of great customer service?

Read and View John 13:1-20

Exploring the Word

1. What were Jesus' thoughts, attitude, and actions going into the final days of His life on earth (v 1-5)?
2. Describe the conversation between Jesus and Peter (v 6-9). How did Peter respond? What can we learn from this?
3. What statement did Jesus make about "cleanliness" and what do you think He meant by this (v 10-11)?
4. What challenge did Jesus give to His disciples, and what promise did He make (v 12-17)?
5. What prophecy did Jesus fulfill in predicting His betrayal, why did He make this prediction, and what truth statement did He make about "acceptance" (v 18-20)?

Applying the Word

1. When and why do you find it difficult to allow others to serve you? When and why is it difficult for you to serve others? What can you apply to your life today from Jesus and Peter's example?
2. What are the implications of verse 20 in your life today? Where are you on your faith journey of "acceptance" today, and how should you respond?

Next Week: 13:21-38, 14:1-14



Jesus predicts His betrayal and denial, the Way to the Father John 13: 21-38, 14:1-14

Icebreaker:

1. In what ways do you sometimes feel that this world is not your home?

Read and View John 13:21-38, 14:1-14

Exploring the Word

1. What were the dialog and actions regarding Jesus predicting that He would be betrayed? What does this show us about Jesus and His mission (v 18-30)?
2. What new command did Jesus give to His disciples and why (v 34-35)? Is it significant or ironic that He gave this command at this time in His ministry? Why?
3. What dialog did Jesus and Peter have about denial, and what does this show us about Peter and Jesus (v 36-38)?
4. What did Jesus say to comfort His disciples, and why was this comforting (v 1-2)? What details did He give about heaven?
5. What truth claim did Jesus make about Himself and the way to knowing the Father and why is this significant (v 6-7)? What does Jesus go on to say further about faith and prayer (v 9-14)?

Applying the Word

1. If you really believe Jesus' truth claim in John 14:6 that Jesus is "the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me", how should this impact your life today? Where are you on your faith journey today? Where would you like to be?
2. Have you ever been betrayed or let down by a friend? If so, compare the way you felt and acted to what Jesus felt and did about Judas and Peter? What might Jesus have done if He had been bitter about either man? What can we learn from His example?
3. Are you at all like Peter in 13:36-38? How accurate is your own assessment of your devotion to Jesus? Think and pray about this or talk with someone else about it.
4. Why do you think actively loving other Christians is such an effective way to help reach others for Jesus (v 35)? How should knowing this truth impact our lives today?

Next Week: 14:15-31, 15:1-6



The Promise of the Holy Spirit, the Real Vine John 14: 15-31, 15:1-6

Icebreaker:

1. How do the people you love (whether close friends, spouse, or family members) know that you love them?

Read and View John 14:15-31, 15:1-6

Exploring the Word

1. What did Jesus say His disciples would do if they loved Him (v 15)?
2. Who did Jesus say would remain with us in the world after He physically departs (v 16-20)? Why?
3. What did Jesus say was key to having a loving relationship with God and Jesus (v 20-24)?
4. What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit (Counselor) would do (v 25-26)? What other needed thing would Jesus leave for those in the world and why (v 27)?
5. Why did Jesus tell them now that He was going to the Father (v 28-31)?
6. What are the attributes and relationships of the Gardener, the Vine and the branches (v 1-6)? How does this relate to our own lives?

Applying the Word

1. From what or whom are you seeking counsel and peace these days? Why? Are you going to the right source? What can you do today to better experience and enjoy the real peace which Jesus gives?
2. Where are you on your spiritual journey today regarding love for God, obedience, and remaining in the vine (Jesus)? Where would you like to be? What needs to change in your life by God's grace and power?

Next Week: John 15:7-27, 16:1-11



Love One Another John 15: 7-27, 16:1-11

Icebreaker:

1. What are some of the marks of a true friendship and what do you do to maintain them?

Read and View John 15:7-27, 16:1-11

Exploring the Word

1. What promise did Jesus make regarding prayer, and why do you think He can make this promise (v 7)?
2. What does "bearing fruit" do and why do you think so (v 8)?
3. What are some of the commands which Jesus gives in this passage (v 9-12)?
4. What is the greatest kind of love (v 13), and why do you think so? Who demonstrated that love the best?
5. What does Jesus say about being His friend (v 15-17)?
6. What did Jesus say about the world and hate (v 18-25)?
7. What was going to happen to the disciples for following Christ (v 1-4)? Why did Jesus tell them this now?
8. What did Jesus say the Counselor (Holy Spirit, see also John 15:26)) would do for the world (v 5-11)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your spiritual journey today regarding trusting and experiencing the greatest love of all, which is only found in Christ (see also 15:13)?
2. Based on John 15:7, what principles regarding prayer should you apply in your life today?
3. How can you apply Jesus' standard for discipleship (see also 15:8) to your life today?
4. Based on Jesus' definition of being His friend (John 15:14), how are you doing as His friend? Are there any areas of your life where you are lacking in obedience to His commands? How, then, should you live?

Next Week: John 16:12-33, 17:1-9



Victory over the World John 16: 12-33, 17:1-5

Icebreaker:

1. What painful experiences in your life have resulted in joy? How?

Read and View John 16:12-33, 17:1-5

Exploring the Word

1. What would the Spirit of truth do for Jesus' disciples when He would come (v 12-14)?
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen to them (v 19-20, 22)?
3. What did Jesus say which applies to our prayer life (v 23-24)?
4. Why did the Father love the disciples (v 27)?
5. From where did Jesus come and to where was He going (v 28)? How did the disciples respond to this truth (v 29-30)?
6. What did Jesus want for His disciples and why did Jesus tell the disciples to take heart (v 33)?
7. What does Jesus say about glory and eternal life (v 1-5)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you today regarding knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ and having eternal life (v 2-3)?
2. How can we apply verse 13 to our lives in our search for truth and our reading of God's Word?
3. If we really believe that Jesus gives real peace and He has overcome the world, how should that impact our lives today (33)?
4. What can we apply to our prayer life from Jesus' example in praying (v 1-5)?

Next Week: John 17:6-26



Jesus Prays for His Disciples John 17: 6-26

Icebreaker:

1. In what way might you say that the world is a dangerous place for a Christian to live in?

Read and View John 17:6-26

Exploring the Word

1. Who were the two groups of people whom Jesus was praying for in this passage?
2. What and why did Jesus pray for His disciples (v 6-19)?
3. Why did the world hate Jesus' disciples and what relationship did His disciples have with the world (v 14-18)?
4. What did Jesus pray for all believers (v 20-26)?
5. Why did Jesus pray for believers to be in complete unity (v 23)?
6. What would Jesus continue to make known and why (v 26)?

Applying the Word

1. What one aspect of Jesus' prayer seems most significant to you? Why? How can you apply that truth from Jesus' prayer to your life today?
2. How can you become more fully engaged in letting the world know about God's love through Jesus Christ (see also v 23)? Who has God brought into your life that you could reach out to?
3. What steps can you take to foster more unity for God's purposes among the Christians you worship and serve with? How can you grow to know God more intimately and become more one with the Father and the Son?

Next Week: John 18:1-27



The Arrest of Jesus, Peter's Denial John 18: 1-27

Icebreaker:

1. When have you ever been betrayed by a person or a cause you believed in? How did you feel and respond?

Read and View John 18:1-27

Exploring the Word

1. What happened after Jesus had finished praying? How did it transpire? What does this entire event show us about Jesus' sovereign knowledge and power (v 1-11)? What could he have done if He had chosen to?
2. What recent prophecy which Jesus had made was fulfilled about His disciples even in His betrayal (v 9, see also John 6:39)?
3. What cup do you think Jesus referring to and how does that relate to His life's mission (v 11)?
4. What happened next and what had Caiaphas prophesied earlier to the people about Jesus (v 12-14, see also John 11:49-52)? What encouragement does that give us as we look to the Cross in our own lives?
5. How was Jesus' prediction about Peter in John 13 fulfilled by Peter's actions (v 15-18, 25-27)? What does this show us about Jesus' sovereignty and power?
6. What did Jesus say about the way He taught and His truth, and how did that sadly contrast in how He was betrayed and put on trial (v 19-24)?

Applying the Word

1. What sticks out most in your mind about how Jesus was betrayed and how He responded? What can we learn and apply to our lives about how Jesus responded when He was betrayed at the hands of men who were under the authority of our sovereign God?
2. Where are you on your journey in believing in and trusting the truth of Jesus (see also v 23)? Have you fully accepted it or are you rejecting some or all of Jesus' truth? Where do you want to be?
3. In a similar way, what truth do you need to stand up for today no matter the cost?

Next Week: John 18:28-40



Jesus Before Pilate John 18: 28-40, 19:1-12

Icebreaker:

1. When have you ever been tempted to do what works instead of what is right, and how did it turn out?

Read and View John 18:28-40, 19:1-12

Exploring the Word

1. What were some of the circumstances surrounding Jesus' appearance before Pilate (time, issues, pressures, etc)?
2. Why was the method of Jesus' death so important (v 32, see also Hebrews 9:22)?
3. What truth statement did Jesus make about His Kingdom (v 36), and why do you think He made this statement?
4. Why did Jesus say He was born and came into this world (v 37)? Why is this significant and meaningful? How did Pilate and the people respond (v 38-40)?
5. What did Pilate and the soldiers then do to Jesus (v 1-6), and why did the people believe Jesus was worthy of death (v 7, see also Leviticus 24:16)?
6. How did Jesus respond to these accusations, and what truth about God's sovereign plan is shown by Jesus' words and actions (v 7-12)?

Applying the Word

1. Like Pilate, do you find it hard to find and believe in truth these days? Why or why not? Where are you on your journey in believing in and trusting the truth of Jesus? Have you fully accepted it or are you rejecting some or all of Jesus' truth? Where do you want to be?
2. What implications do the statement, "My Kingdom is not of this world ..." (18:36) have for your priorities and actions?
3. What implications do the statement, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (18:37) have for you?
4. What kind of pressures do you feel to compromise your principles in life? What can you learn and apply from Pilate's bad example and Jesus' perfect example in your life today? What things are key in resisting these pressures and living truly and effectively as a beloved child of God in the world?

Next Week: John 19:13-37



Jesus is Crucified John 19: 13-37

Icebreaker:

1. What to you is the most humiliating situation you can imagine?

Read and View John 19:13-37

Exploring the Word

1. Describe the timing, location, and dialog between Pilate and the Jews regarding Jesus' sentencing (v 13-16).
2. What were some of the significant things that happened leading up to and on the road to Calvary (v 17-22)?
3. Even when on the cross, how did Jesus show His concern for others (v 25-27)?
4. What prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion (v 24-37), and what does this show us about God's incredible plan of salvation for mankind?
5. What do you think is the significance of Jesus's final statement, "It is finished", before He died (v 30)? Was His spirit taken or did He give His spirit up? What conclusions can we draw from this?

Applying the Word

1. As you read and observe Jesus' crucifixion, how does it make you feel? How does it impact your life in understanding God's love for you and trusting and believing in Jesus' message of Good News? How does it make you want to live?
2. In your own life, what want or desire can you sacrifice for someone else's benefit? How?
3. Take some additional time to meditate on Jesus' death. What strikes you as important? How has His death affected your life? What difference would you like it to make for your life?

Next Week: John 19:38-42; 20:1-18



The Burial of Jesus, The Empty Tomb John 19: 38-42; 20:1-18

Icebreaker:

1. What is one dark moment of your life that ended happily?

Read and View John 19:38-42; 20:1-18

Exploring the Word

1. Describe how and where Jesus was buried (v 38-42)..
2. Who were the people who saw Jesus after His resurrection and what was the sequence of events (v 1-9)? What did they see, and how did they respond?
3. What did the disciples do initially after they saw the empty tomb, and why do you think they did (v 10)?
4. What happened next (v 10-18)? Describe the dialog between Mary Magdalene and Jesus. How did this impact Mary's life?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you today on your journey of believing in and trusting in the risen Savior, Jesus (see also verses 8 and 18)? Where do you desire to be?
2. Do you ever feel or live like a "secret" disciple of Jesus kind of like Joseph of Arimathea? What needs to change in your life as a follower of Jesus to be more visible or effective?
3. Does Jesus ever call you by name like He did Mary Magdalene (v 16)? Why is this important to you? How does it affect the way you feel about and deal with your circumstances in life?

Next Week: John 20:19-30



Jesus Appears to His Disciples John 20:19-30

Icebreaker:

1. What friend or relative that you have not seen for a while would you be excited and happy to see again?

Read and View John 20:19-30

Exploring the Word

1. In what condition were the disciples when they saw Jesus, and how did He enter and greet them (v 19-20)?
2. What did Jesus show them about Himself, and what were His plans for them from here on out (v 21)? What did He leave them with (v 22)?
3. Who was noticeably absent from this appearance, and how did he respond to the other disciples' testimony of seeing Jesus (v 24-25)?
4. What was the significance of Thomas' words about Jesus, and how long did Thomas have to wait to see (v 25-26)? Why do you think it happened this way and what does this show us about the value which Jesus places on us as His people?
5. How did Jesus encourage Thomas' faith, and how did Thomas respond (v 27-28)?
6. What affirmation did Jesus give to those who would later believe (v 29)?
7. Though not every one of Jesus' miracles was recorded (see also 21:25), why did God inspire John to write these things (v 31)?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your life journey today regarding really believing in (i.e. trusting) the risen Savior Jesus Christ? What is sometimes hard for you to believe?
2. What does it look like in your life today to truly say and mean "My Lord and My God" to Jesus?
3. In a similar way that John did, how can you better testify to the difference Jesus has made in your life so that "others may have life in His name"?

Next Week: John 21:1-25



Jesus and Peter, Conclusion John 21:1-25

Icebreaker:

1. When did you ever have to restore a broken relationship? Why and how?

Read and View John 21:1-25

Exploring the Word

1. How did Jesus' third appearance to His disciples transpire, and what impact do you think it had on their lives (v 1-14)? Why do you think Jesus appeared to them in this way?
2. Why do you think Jesus called Peter by the name of Simon in the conversation after they had eaten, and what did Jesus ask him (v 15-19)?
3. How did Peter respond to Jesus' questioning, why do you think he responded that way ("You know ..."), and how did it impact Peter's life (v 15-19)? What life lesson is there for us in this dialog between Jesus and Peter?
4. What challenge did Jesus give Peter near the end of this dialog (v 19)? Why do you think He gave Peter this challenge (see also Matthew 4:19)?
5. What do you think was the significance of what Jesus said about John (v 20-23)?
6. What does John say about his testimony about Jesus and all the things Jesus did throughout His life on earth (v 24-25)? How does that encourage you in your relationship with the Lord?

Applying the Word

1. Where are you on your life journey today regarding really believing in (i.e. trusting) the risen Savior Jesus Christ? Are you following Jesus in the way He desires (see also John 21:19, 22; Matthew 4:19)?
2. Is there anything hindering you from following Jesus with your whole heart? What might need to change in your life today by God's grace and power in order for you to follow Him fully in your life?
3. How are Jesus' instructions to you similar or different to His instructions to Peter? How well are you fulfilling these instructions? How could you improve by God's grace and power?