

Discussion Questions: The Prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1-18)

These questions are to use (or not) as a group may see fit.

1. What are the questions that linger for you about the introduction to John's gospel? (Confusions? Wonderings? Frustrations? Lines of interest piqued but not answered/discussed in the teaching times?) Discuss these things.
2. The teaching time focused on two specific ways Jesus embodies the WORD of 1:1-4: (1) by revealing the invisible God, and (2) by being given the authority to grant Life. Might there be other ways that this WORD (1:1-4) is embodied by/in Jesus?
3. What do you think that John the author meant when he describes Jesus as being "in the bosom" of the Father (1:18)?
 - a. Follow-up question: There is one other character in the Gospel of John who enjoys the position of being "in the bosom" of someone. (Read Jn. 13:23-25.) Who is this character, and whose bosom is he "upon"? How is this character described in this excerpt/passage?
 - i. Follow up to the follow up: What do these two characters, Jesus (in 1:18) and the disciple (in Jn. 13), who both enjoy the position of being "in the bosom" of another, share in common in terms of the role each plays in the gospel? (Read 1:18 and 21:20-24.)
4. Try to imagine being a first-century reader of John's Gospel hearing/reading it for the first time. If a prologue somehow introduces a larger written work, what themes or ideas or events might the introduction cause you to anticipate in the story that follows?
5. What might be the implications of God's WORD "becoming flesh" for us who are of "flesh"? What is "communicated" to us as people in this transformation that occurs (in 1:14)?