

# 4Ws The Gospel of John: So That You May Know The Word

## Part 1 – John 1:1-3 DGroup's Curriculum: Leader's Copy

### WORSHIP

(Remember, the Worship time is designed to **get everyone involved in 'recommending' God**, so make sure you **highlight who God is** and what **he has done for us**, and avoid asking him for anything at least for these few minutes.)

Consider reading **Psalm 78:1-31** together, taking turns reading a verse a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse. You can discuss the Psalms you **read and share what they mean to you**.

Consider singing some of the songs on the sheets that were included in your packet if you have someone in the group that plays the guitar or can lead music and/or play the guitar

End your worship time together with **'popcorn praise'**. Tell the group that you'll **pray together**, but without the usual trappings of prayer, **no long prayers**, **no eloquent speech**, and **no requests**, **just simple words of praise** like, **"Father, you know I was almost in an accident this week and you showed up and protected me and my family, thank you."**

### WELCOME

(Remember, the Welcome Question is designed to get everyone talking, so make sure you take your time and allow everyone to respond to this question.)

Question: Do you (or someone else you know in the room) have a **hidden talent** that others in the room might not know about? What is that talent and what are the chances that you'll show us your **secret skill**? Please? **Tell us the story**.

### WORD

(Remember that our time in the Word is intended to remind people what they learned during the message and **help them find ways to apply those truths to their lives**. Hand out the copies of the questions and then lead them in a discussion. Make sure that everyone has a chance to be involved in the discussion without letting anyone dominate the discussion time.)

1. We said in the message that John had a goal as he wrote his gospel. **What was John's goal in writing** and what does he want us to **KNOW, UNDERSTAND and BELIEVE?** What does John want us to HAVE?

**Answer:**

*Let them discuss this. (Read John 20:30-31.) John did have a purpose as he wrote his Gospel. According to this passage, John wants us to KNOW what Jesus did because John saw all the things that Jesus did during his ministry. John wants us to UNDERSTAND who Jesus is because understanding who Jesus is gives additional meaning to what Jesus did. John wants us to BELIEVE that **Jesus is the Messiah** – the One that God promised would*

come to earth to deal with the problem of sin and death. John wanted us to **KNOW**, **UNDERSTAND** and **BELIEVE** all these things because he wanted us to **HAVE LIFE**. Our only chance at ever experiencing life comes to us as a result of what we **KNOW**, **UNDERSTAND** and **BELIEVE** about Jesus, the **true Word of God**.

2. We said in the message that John was either **CONTRADICTING** Genesis or **CLARIFYING** Genesis. Why did we make this point and why does it matter?

**Answer:**

Let them discuss this. (Read Genesis 1:1 and John 1:3.) In Genesis Moses says that **GOD** created all things, and John says that **THE WORD** created all things. So, John is either **CONTRADICTING** what Moses wrote or **CLARIFYING** what Moses wrote because the two men don't seem to be saying the same thing. The truth is that John is clarifying what Moses wrote. Remind the group that there are many names for God in the Bible. We don't have to know all the names that God uses for Himself, but it would help us to understand that God reveals Himself through His names. He chooses different names in different situations to help us to understand different parts of his Nature and Character. John is helping us to understand that the Name God was using during creation was 'The Word'. Remind the group that God called everything into being by **SPEAKING THE WORD**. He said, "Let there be light!" and the light appeared. So, God was expressing Himself as The Word when He was creating. In simple terms, **God and The Word** are the same, and **The Word is God**. That's going to have bearing on the next question.

3. We said in the message that '**The Word**' created all things. Who is 'The Word', and based on that, who created all things?

**Answer:**

Let them discuss this. (Read John 1:3 and 14.) John 1:3 says that 'The Word' created all things. John 1:14 says that 'The Word' became flesh and lived among us. In other words, John is saying that the one who created all things and the one who became flesh and lived among us, are the same person. We know that **Jesus became flesh** – in other words, took on a human body – so when we put these two things together we know that **it is Jesus who created all things**. Help the group to understand that this is **John's style**. The **other Gospel** writers give us a **synopsis**. They tell us what happened and then allow us to reach our own conclusions about what we've read. John will not take that approach; he will not leave us a bunch of options when it comes to figuring out what his stories mean. This is a good example of that. There really is no other conclusion that we can reach about all this other than the truth that Jesus is the Creator of all things. There's no room for other conclusions. We may choose not to believe it, but that's what John expects us to believe.

4. What is the **Transitive Property** and what bearing does that property have on what we discussed this week from the Gospel of John? What conclusions can we reach about Jesus based on the Transitive Property?

**Answer:**

Let them discuss this. (Read John 1:1 and 14.) The Transitive Property states (among other things) that if  $A=B$  and  $B=C$  then  $A=C$ . When we apply the Transitive Property to John 1:1 and 14, the truth is not too difficult to discover. We know that God (A) = The Word (B), and we know that The Word (B) = Jesus (C), so we can assume that God (A) = Jesus (C). In other words, if **THE WORD is GOD** and **JESUS is THE WORD**, then **JESUS is GOD**. This is

*another of the inescapable conclusions to which John will lead us in this chapter. Jesus is Creator God who spoke the word and called all things into being.*

5. We said in the message that believing that **Jesus is our Messiah and Savior** is the only shot we have at being truly alive. Why did we say this and what does it mean for our lives today?

**Answer:**

*Let them discuss this. (Read John 20:30-31 again.) John tells us in chapter 20 that there are certain stories that he has told us about the things that Jesus did while he was with his disciples. John also tells us that he has 'cherry picked' the stories that he has told us. There were many things that Jesus did while he was with his disciples that John says nothing about, but the stories that he did choose to tell us were chosen with one goal in mind: So that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and believing we might have life in His name. There is no other path to life. Once again, John has limited our options and told us that it's all about Jesus. By the way, in John 14 Jesus himself will say, "**I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE, no one comes to the Father except through me.**" So, John is not the only one who will limit our options in this book. Jesus will have some very exclusive things to say about Himself. Remind the group that Jesus did not say, "I am A way," he said, "I am THE way." Remind the group to buckle their seat-belts because we're going to learn a lot about Jesus as we make our way through John.*

**Close your time in the Word with prayer.**

## WORK

(Remember that the main question to ask during the Work time is, "**Who else needs to hear about this?**" You will be generating a list of people who we will plan to invite to a future meeting.)

John has explained to us that he wrote the Gospel of John so that we can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and when we believe that **we will have life through His name**. We're starting into a New Year and the time is ripe for us to **begin sharing the Good News about Jesus** with people that we know need to hear it. We need to be more active than ever telling other people about what Jesus did for them so that they can believe and have life. John was not able to keep the things that he had learned about Jesus secret. In fact, he had no desire to keep them secret. How sad would it be if we were to fail to share good news with people who need to hear it? **The time is now, so let's get busy.**

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to share the gospel than to **set an example** for them. **Speak to others about Jesus** when you have the opportunity and **set an example of lifestyle evangelism** for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. **Discuss** how we can be more aggressively involved in **sharing the good news** with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to Life Group, or come to Christ through some other means. **Have each couple or individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.**

**Close your time together in prayer.**