

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 27, 2015

This Week's Focus: Jesus, the invisible, eternal Word of God and Creator of the world, humbled himself by becoming a man, and out of his love for us died on the cross to reconcile us with God the Father.

This Week's Text: John 1:1-13

"The whole universe falls into the category of 'becoming' because there was a point when it did not exist. Before existence it was the self-existent eternal being - the source of life - God, who is pure, self-existent." **John MacArthur**

"God causes all things that happen, but he does so in such a way that he somehow upholds our ability to make willing, responsible choices, choices that have real and eternal results and for which we are held accountable. Exactly how God combines his providential control with our willing and significant choices, scripture does not explain to us. Rather than deny one aspect or the other we should accept both in attempt to be faithful to the teaching of all scripture." **Wayne Grudem**

Related Texts: John 3:19, 8:12, 20:30-31; Psalm 36:9, 56:13; Ephesians 2:1-8; James 4:4; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions of this week's sermon?
- What is the purpose of John's Gospel? Reference John 20:31. Who does John say that Jesus is?
- Reference John 1:18 and John 14:8-9. How are the Gospels different from biographies?
- John begins his Gospel with the words, "In the beginning." What other familiar passage of Scripture is John alluding to? Why is this important? What divine attribute(s) is John assigning to the Word (Jesus)?

- According to verse 4, "In him was life." What does John mean by this statement? What does it mean that Jesus is "ultimate reality"? How does denying this fact affect the way you perceive the world and how you live? How does affirming this truth affect the way you perceive the world and how you live?
- Why does John state that Jesus is life and light? What is the "darkness" that John's refers to in verses 5 and 9-10? Discuss how sin blinds us to the ultimate reality of God's glory and makes us enemies of God.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the source of all original life and the agent of the second creation? Reference Ephesians 2:1-8. Have you experienced the purifying and healing power of Jesus' light in your heart?
- How does one who is an enemy of God become a child of God? Reference verses 12-13. What does it mean to believe in or welcome Jesus? Discuss how these verses wonderfully balance human responsibility and divine sovereignty in regeneration.
- What is eternal life? Reference John 3:36. Explain how eternal life is not just a quantity of life, but a quality of life with God.
- How can we live in a way that practically demonstrates the Gospel and points to Jesus as ultimate reality? Does the sweetness of God's grace toward you produce in you a desire to declare and demonstrate the Gospel to the world?

Next Week's Text: Isaiah 53:4-6