

Adult Bible Study

Jan 3, 2021

Opening Prayer

What is your full name? Your nickname? Where did the names come from?

Background: John begins his gospel by summarizing the Gospel

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Questions

1. Why does this gospel begin "In the beginning" rather than at Jesus' birth?
2. Who or what is John referring to as "the Word"?
3. What do verses 1-5 and 10-18 tell us about "the Word"?
4. What is John the Baptist's role as a witness?



5. From the image of “receiving” someone (vs. 12), how would you explain what faith is about?

Reflection

1. What does John’s emphasis on the pre-existent, creative Christ mean to you?
2. Are you keeping Jesus at the door or in certain rooms? Why?
3. Maybe you have given Jesus the keys. Why?
4. How can you share the keys of faith with others this week?

Closing Prayer

Thoughts? Ideas? Questions? Discussion? Rick Papin. macelff@gmail.com