

Jesus Is Our God

John 1:1-18

► Who is the Word?

▷ The Word is _____

▷ The Word is _____

▷ The Word is _____

▷ The Word is _____

► Why did the Word become flesh?

▷ To make God _____

▷ To _____ God's people

► How will we respond?

▷ Some did not _____ him

▷ Some _____ him

Application Questions

1. How has the celebration of Christmas helped make Jesus, God the Son, more cherished by you?
2. What do you think about the following quote?
"It is no wonder that thoughtful people find the gospel of Jesus Christ hard to believe, for the realities with which it deals pass man's understanding. But it is sad that so many make faith harder than it need be, by finding difficulties in the wrong places. Take the atonement, for instance. Many feel difficulty there. How can that death have any bearing on God's forgiveness of our sins today? Or take the resurrection... How can we believe that Jesus rose physically from the dead? Or, again, take the virgin birth... Or take the gospel miracles... With these and similar problems many minds on the fringes of faith are deeply perplexed today.
*"But the real difficulty does not lie here at all. It lies, not in the Good Friday message of atonement, or in the Easter message of resurrection, but in the Christmas message of incarnation... It is here, in the thing that happened at that first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. 'The Word became flesh'; God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty was born as a baby... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. This is the real stumbling-block in Christianity" (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, pg.45-46).*

Read John 1:1-18

3. Who is the Word? Look at John 1:1-9. What does this tell us about the identity of the Word? What popular views of God and reality do these verses correct?
4. Why did the Word become flesh? Look at John 1:14-18. What does this tell us about the purpose(s) of the incarnation? Explain how this builds one's faith and produces hope.
5. How should we respond? Look at John 1:10-13. What are the two responses to the coming of the Word? What are two different ways that people reject the Word? What does this look like in your heart and life?
6. J.I. Packer goes on to write the following:
"The more you think about it the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation. This is the real stumbling block in Christianity. But once the incarnation is grasped as reality, all the other difficulties dissolve" (pg.46).
Why is it that "once the incarnation is grasped as reality, all the other difficulties dissolve"?
7. How might this passage of scripture help you interact with people who are on "the fringes of faith"?