

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – 20th December 2020

Theme: Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth Topic: The Word Became Flesh

Main Text: John 1:1-18

Key verse: John 1:14 *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of John does not open gently like the other gospels. Instead, it begins with what seems like an attempt to jar the reader: *‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God’* (John :1 NKJV). According to NIV Study Bible, *“‘Word’ is the English translation of the Greek ‘logos,’ a term Greeks used not only of the spoken word but also of the unspoken word—the reason. When they applied it to the universe, they meant the rational principle that governs all things. The Jews, however, used it to refer to the “word” of God by which He created the world and governs it and to refer to the law of God that He gave the Israelites to be their life (Deuteronomy 32:47). The rabbis said the law was “created before the world,” that it “lay on God’s bosom while God sat on the throne of glory,” that it was divine, that it was God’s “firstborn” through whom He “created the heaven and the earth,” that it is “light” and “life” for the world and that it “is truth.’* Thus, John used a term that was evocative to both Jews and Gentiles. The point was so important that in eighteen short verses, John refers to this ‘Word’ over thirty times, using different nouns and pronouns!

1. (a) In John 1:1-18, what other words or terms were used to refer to the ‘Word’? (b) Who is the ‘Word’ that John refers to in this passage and what are some key things he says about the ‘Word’? E.g., John 1:1-5, 9,15,18 (c) What are the implications of what was said about the ‘Word’?

The NIV Bible titled the first three verses of Hebrews 1 as *‘God’s Final Word.’* And goes on to say, *“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe.”* (Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV). Apostle John affirms the writer of Hebrews in associating Jesus with the creation story, thus emphasizing Jesus’ presence and His unity with God *in the beginning.* (John 1:1-2). John presents Jesus as the Word, and as God in the flesh; *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, ...”* (John 1:14 NKJV). This idea was central to John’s gospel and there must be a reason for John to make it the centre-point of his gospel.

2. (a) What do you understand by ‘the Word became flesh’? (b) How does John 1:16,18 deepen your understanding of ‘the Word became flesh’? (c) According to John 1:9,12,16-18, why did God take on human form?

The story is told of an eight-year-old girl who, when asked why Jesus is called the Word, said, *“Because Jesus is all God wanted to say to us.”* In John 14:8, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father. And Jesus answered: *“Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”* (John 14:9 NIV). God’s purpose for communicating with man has remained the same right from creation. And Apostle John highlights some of these in John 1:1-18 and finally in John 20:30-31 he says, *“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”* (NIV)

3. (a) According to John 1:10-13, what are we to do with this once-for-all revelation of God? (b) What else can we do with it? E.g., John 1:7 (c) What other lesson did you pick up from this study?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for making this loud and final statement in the person of Jesus Christ. Help me to respond well to Your statement in Christ and to help others do likewise. Amen.*