

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – January 7th, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** In the Beginning

Main Text: John 1:1-18, 29-34

Key verse: *John 1:1 – ‘In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself’ (AMP)*

INTRODUCTION: When you interact with people, including Christians, on serious issues, like marriage, or spirituality, you will often hear responses like, ‘each couple should figure out what works for them.’ Or ‘prayer works!’; when perhaps they received the miracle they prayed for. Such responses reduce such weighty matters to personal experiences. But is our experience or preference the foundation of the Christian faith? In Quarter 4 of 2023, we explored the theme “The Urgency of the Last Days.” One recurring refrain from that quarter was the need for believers to stand firm in their faith because of the uncertainties which the Last Days will usher, as we are seeing already. Standing firm requires that our faith is properly anchored on the right pegs/tenets of the Christian faith. Apostle Peter in refuting the false teachers, said that the authority of what the Apostles taught concerning Jesus Christ was direct from God the Father Himself (2 Peter 1:16-21). And so, we start our journey on the foundation of the Christian faith by going back to the very beginning!

1. (a) What attributes about the ‘Word’ do you get from John 1:1-5? (b) John 1:14 says that ‘The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...’ Who or what do you suppose this is referring to? Why do you say so? (c) Read Genesis 1:1, 3,6,9,11,14,20,24. What significance do these verses add to your answers to Q1 a & b?

Every December 25, the world celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Influenced by the Gospel accounts by Mathew and Luke, the celebratory story begins with Jesus’ Divine conception, and virgin birth. But starting the Jesus story at His conception and birth can pose a problem for many believers and even non-believers in many ways. For instance, it may give the impression that the coming of Jesus Christ was an afterthought by God. Worse yet, it gives room to questions about Jesus’ ability to save. So, with the stated purpose of John’s Gospel being ‘*that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name*’ (John 20:31 ESV), it was important to trace Jesus’ life and ministry to the very beginning - ‘*In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men.*’ (John 1:4-5 AMP)

2. Read Genesis 2:9; John 1:4-5, 29; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelations 13:8b (a) What parallel do you find in these passages concerning Jesus Christ? (b) What does this teach us about the Christmas story - God’s salvation plan? (c) How does this knowledge help you be more grounded in your faith?

In Genesis 2:9, man had the opportunity to choose the tree of life, but chose the forbidden tree. That singular act of rebellion, marked humanity for good (Genesis 8:21). This has continued down the generation – from Cain to the time of Noah, Moses, and the Law, to the Prophets, and even when the Word took on human form and dwelt among us. God, through Apostle John wants us to know that “Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31 NIV).

3. Read Genesis 3:21; 4:7; John 1:10-12. (a) What do you see God doing in the face of man’s rebellion? (b) What does His actions in these passages communicate about God? (c) What do these actions teach us about God’s salvation plan through Jesus Christ?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I believe that YOU are God come down to earth to die to restore me to YOURSELF. May my faith for eternal life be founded on these truths about YOU and what YOU have done. Amen.*