

John: The Gospel of Light and Life
Adam Hamilton
Chapter 1 Discussion
The Word Made Flesh (pgs. 15-23)

Opening Prayer

Holy God of light and life, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for Jesus' follower who so long ago wrote the words of this Gospel so that we might know Jesus Christ and live in relationship with him. Bless our time together as we study this, Gospel. Open our hearts so that we may be receptive to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible and Book Study and Discussion

Opening Sentence:

“John is unique among the Gospels.”

The three Gospels are referred to as the *Synoptic* Gospels.

Synoptic means “to see together” in Greek.

- Who wrote the Gospel of John?
- When was the Gospel of John written?
- What is the central question addressed in this Gospel?

The Word Made Flesh:

-Read John 1:1-3 (pgs. 26) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1804)

- What is the premise of the Gospel of John, as introduced in the prologue?
- What is the Greek term that John uses for “the Word?”

- What does “the Word” or *Logos* mean as it is used in John’s Gospel?

-Read John 1:14 (Pg. 27) (Cultural Backgrounds Study bible pg. 1804)

- The premise of the bible is that the God who created the universe wants to be known by human beings.

Read John 1:3-5 (pg. 26) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1804)

- The author describes “darkness” in several ways: spiritual blindness, failure to understand what it means to be human, despair, hopelessness, and evil.

- How do you describe darkness?

- How have you experienced darkness?

- Where is there darkness in our church, our community, and around the world?

- What does John say about light in the prologue?

- How does Jesus bring light into your life?

- How can we “knock holes in the darkness” and be the light of Christ for others, both as individuals and as the church?

In Him Was Life

-Read John 20:31 (pg. 163) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1856)

- What is John’s reason for writing the Gospel?

- Read John 3:16 (pg. 50) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1811)

- Luther call this the “Gospel in Miniature.”
- What does “eternal life: mean in John’s Gospel?

- How have you experienced the reality that eternal life begins now in our life on earth?

- Read John 5:24 (pg. 55) (Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible pg. 1818)
- How have you “passed from death into life” in your life here on earth?

- What does it mean to have new life in Christ?

- Read the invitation on pg. 23
- In what ways have you put your trust in Jesus Christ?

- Are there areas of your life where you do not trust in Christ?

- If there are, what holds you back?

- When you find yourself in darkness, what does it mean to trust in Jesus to be your life and life?

Hymn Study and Discussion

“ ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

- How do the phrases of this hymn speak to you?

‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

I

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;

Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, Thus saith the Lord.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

2

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

3

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

4

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

Session in Closing

Journal (Personal/Optional)

- Specifically, what do I want to explore or work on this week?
- What questions do I still have about the PROLOGUE to John's Gospel and the topics we discussed?

Food for Thought.....

The word Gospel has two meanings in this study:

- 1. The good tiding or good news of Jesus Christ*
- 2. The books that tell the story of Jesus Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I trust in you, that you are God's Word in flesh. I trust that you are the light of the world. Illuminate my darkness. Help me to walk in your light and to love and follow you all of my days. In your holy name. Amen.