



It's all about Jesus

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Sunday 16th February 2014

NOTES FROM THE TALK

Bible: John 1: 1-18, 35-42

INTRODUCTION

Reasons for studying John's Gospel

- Simple language
- Basic Christian truths revealed
- Written to help people believe in Jesus
A Matter of life... and death.

Two Pillars

Experience and Truth (Doctrine/Teaching) – “both and”

Teaching – not just about increasing your knowledge bank.
Being able to share the case for Christ.

John, the author

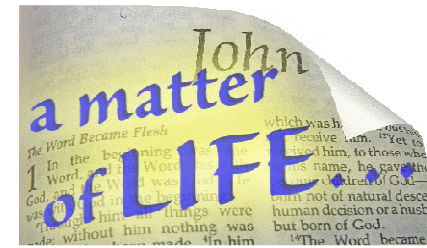
1. WHO JESUS IS

The Word... became flesh. Divine & Human

Transitions (v14)

- At the cinema: from a film back to reality
- Life portrayed in film: from life's intimate moments to life's bustle

The spoken, creative Word of God...



2. WHY JESUS CAME

Life – Light – Belief – Rebirth

3. OUR RESPONSE?

Rejection or Reception/Rebirth

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

OPENER

Each person describe a special friend, without naming them. in less than 30 seconds. Begin: "My special friend is..."

DISCUSSION

1. When you describe a close friend what qualities do you refer to? What qualities did John refer to in Jesus? Would you use this kind of language about one of your friends? John went even further than we would in referring to Jesus' very own nature as being "the Word became flesh who dwelt among us."
2. Try preparing a 1 minute summary of **who Jesus is** that would make sense to an average person who doesn't have any church connections. Try to avoid using any "religious" language.
3. Try preparing a 1 minute summary of **why Jesus came** that would make sense to an average person who doesn't have any church connections. Try to avoid using any "religious" language.

Experience and Truth

4. Share some personal experiences of Jesus at work in your life.
5. Discuss how you each experience Jesus in life and what you do, or have done, that has made your relationship with Him, personal, vibrant and real.
6. Discuss ways in which your understanding of the Christian faith has been strengthened so that you have become more sure of the truth, and sharpened your understanding of Christian teaching.

PRAYER

Pray for the next few week's teaching from John's Gospel and all who deliver it. Pray for a dual strengthening of the pillars of experience and truth in our church.

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Which pillar of your faith is stronger, Experience or Truth (Teaching & Doctrine)? What will you do to strengthen the weaker pillar?

MORE TO CONSIDER: HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE JESUS?

John Eldredge, a man who writes particularly for men, wrote this on 9th September 2011.

Experiencing Jesus

Whatever else it is we need, or think we need, we need Jesus. He is our life, our restoration, our everything. To have Jesus is to have the greatest treasure in all worlds.

So - how do we find Him? How do we experience Him?

Just begin by loving Jesus. Make a practice of loving Him. This will open up your heart and your life to experience Him. For He said, "He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (John 14:21). Love me, He says, and I'll show myself to you.

It makes sense. I mean, you don't go around opening up your heart and your life to just anyone. The people in your life that get to have you, have the real you, are the people who love you most. As it ought to be. Well, the same holds true for God. Now yes, yes - He extends us extraordinary amounts of grace and mercy, and He reaches out even to those who hate Him.

However, those who get to know God intimately, those who get to experience Jesus are those who love Him.

So, just love Him. As you move through your day, just turn your heart to Him in love. "Jesus, I love you." As we make a practice of this, we experience more of Him. Which is the best thing in the world.