



**Northland Christian Church
Group Discussion Guide
For the Week of October 17, 2021**

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- What is something that happened this past week/month that is worth celebrating?
- What was a favorite book or story as a child? Why?

The Context

John Chapter 1:1-5 - The Genesis of the Gospel

Let's talk a bit about the Gospel of John. It is written by a guy named John, the son of Zebedee. John was called by Jesus to be one of the twelve and maybe the youngest of the twelve apostles. If you're a fisherman, you'll like John. He and his brother James, who was also called by Jesus, were fishermen by trade. And while John writes this book he never uses his name... He just calls himself the disciple Jesus loved. But he writes as an eyewitness to everything that happened, he also writes a few other letters (1st, 2nd, 3rd, John) - and eventually the book of Revelation. Pretty smart fisherman!

This book is one of 4 biographies about Jesus. Known as The Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of them are telling the same story of Jesus in their own unique way. The first three are often known as the synoptic Gospels because they generally tell the same stuff with their own unique way of saying it. However, John does something very different than the other three. In fact, 91% of what he says is not found in the other three gospels. He writes his last. He is going to provide additional information. He excluded things like the birth of Jesus, the temptations of Jesus, most miracles, and parables. Even Jesus' most famous sermon - The sermon on the mount, is not there. John wanted to create something unique. John's writing is more poetic, more artistic, thematic and more profound in the way he communicates. It's been said, "This book is like a pool that's safe for a child to paddle in but deep enough for an elephant to swim in." This book is filled with complexities that enrich the meaning in beautiful ways, that look at both Greek and Hebrew culture help them both see the deity and the humanity of Jesus. John states his goal of writing towards the end of the book in

John 20:31 "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."

John more than any other writer wants you to show you why you can believe in God. In fact, he uses the word "believe" more than any other writer (84 times compared to the next highest of 15 times). So, John starts at the beginning - Creation - and the Creator - God the Father and God the Son - The Word, Jesus. (We know from other passages that the Holy Spirit was also involved in creation). Then he moves to the recreation through Jesus. This is where we dive in. The genesis of the Gospel.

Engage the Bible - Read and Review Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 1:1-14 NIV

"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Discuss

1. How is Jesus described in verses 1 & 2 & 14?
2. What does this mean for us? What implications are there to these truths?
3. What work does verse 3 attribute to Jesus?
4. How do the following verses help us understand even more about Jesus' role?

Colossians 1:15-17 "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." -NIV

Hebrews 1:1-2 "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 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." -NIV

5. How does Jesus' involvement in creation change or inform the way you view our world (sunset, sunrise, stars, people, beauty, nature, stewardship, etc.)?
6. How does verse 4 & 9 describe Jesus?
7. How important is light in a dark room? Can the same be said of Jesus in a dark world?
8. How/in what ways is Jesus your light?
9. In what way does light "overcome" darkness? Read [John 16:33 and 1 John 5:4-5](#).

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -NIV

1 John 5:4-5 "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." -NIV

10. How does your belief about Jesus affect the way you live your life?
11. Where does this description of Jesus evoke in you wonder, worship, thanksgiving, or curiosity?
12. How can we encourage each other this week? How can we pray with and for one another this week?

End Your Group Time in Prayer