

“A Year with Jesus”
Week 1, January 3rd, John 1:1-18

// This is it! The start of a year long journey looking at the life of Jesus. A year of spending time weekly in quiet solitude, meeting with Jesus. A year of knowing that others in your church community are joining you, sitting together in the presence of Jesus. At the start, take time in quiet with God to ponder expectations using any or all of the following questions.

- What are you hoping for?
- What questions do you have for God?
- What are you anticipating? Anxious about? Any uncertainties?

Bring your thoughts together from this time of quiet and express them in a written prayer to God.

//Read John 1:1-18

John starts his Gospel uniquely among the others, not with the story of Jesus, but with a theological claim; Jesus, the Word, the Son of God, the light, God himself, came to earth.

Take as much time as you like looking at the passage and then return to focus on the following two verses.

14: *“the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son...”* NIV

18: *“No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.”* NRSV

There may be no greater spiritual questions than these; is there a God, and if there is, what is God like? John’s passage provides his answers...

- There is a God, and that God became human and lived among us.
- To know what God is like, look at the life of Jesus.

How does God feel about us? What does God love? What moves, angers, and hurts God’s heart? What does God think about money, food, faith, sinners, the religious, prayer? All are answered in the life of Jesus. And here’s the challenging part: if we are followers of Jesus, his life provides the example for how we are called to live, and who we are called to be. This is why we, you, are walking through “A Year with Jesus.”

There is much that could be examined in this passage, but in this moment, focus in the quiet with God and sit with these simple questions

- How does it make you feel that God chose to live with us, to make himself known?
- What does this reveal to you about God?
- What does it say about how God views humanity?

Write your thoughts to God.

After pondering these questions, is there anything you would change or add to your expectations for the year?