

Small Group Guide

The goal of our group is to multiply a healthy group through disciple-making. A disciple is one who loves and obeys Jesus.

Connect (1/3 of meeting)

- When you think of Christmas, what are your most memorable moments?
- Worship together in a Christmas song of your choice! Suggested: O Come all Ye Faithful, on page 3

Discover (what God is saying to you)

- Set a timer for 3 minutes and just meditate on John 1:1-14 (MSG)

1-2 The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. **3-5** Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. **6-8** There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. **9-13** The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. **14** The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

- Share what came to your mind or heart as you meditated on this scripture.
- How are the person and work of Jesus central to Christianity? What alternative ideas have you heard someone propose about the heart of Christianity?

- What else jumps out at you in this passage?
- In your opinion, was it easier for John to “believe in Jesus” for salvation than it is for people, today? Why or why not?

Go (tell and do!)

- We often picture God as fixed, immobile, and hard to reach. Here we have revealed a God who hits the road compelled by love. John reminds us that God “became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, MSG). What is so significant about God’s willingness to get so close? How have you experienced his closeness recently?
- What are some of the challenges associated with sharing that experience with non believers?
- God lived “*right next door*” to us, in the person of Jesus Christ. Take time to list and pray for the ones who need to know that. Share your list with the group.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

Repeat Refrain