



September 17-18, 2022

Ice Breaker Questions

- Share one summer highlight or one unexpected thing that happened this summer.
- Who is/are your hero(s) and why?

Understand Their Story

1. Read John 1:1-18 and take note as you read on what John says about “the Word” and “the light” (names which he gives to Jesus).
 - a. What descriptions of Jesus particularly encourage you or challenge you? Why?
2. Read John 1:1-18 again, and focus this time on what John says about another John in verses 6-9, and verse 15.
 - a. How is John an example to us in his actions?
 - b. How is John an example to us in his attitude towards Jesus?

Connect to His Story.

3. John begins his gospel with the words “In the beginning” (John 1:1). The vast majority of John’s gospel would be familiar with the Hebrew Bible (what we now call the Old Testament), and would know how the Biblical story began. The first few verses of John’s gospel would sound familiar to them...
 - a. Read Genesis 1:1. Why do you think John alludes to this verse 4 times in John 1:1-3? What is he claiming as he begins his gospel account?
4. John states also that, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Read the following passages and answer the questions for each:
 - a. Exodus 29:38-46 describes the regular sacrifices that God wants Israel to place on the altar. For what purpose does God institute the sacrificial system according to verses 45-45? What is his goal?
 - b. Revelation 21:1-3. What is the first thing that is declared when the new heavens and earth appear? What is God rejoicing about?
 - c. With these verses in mind, read John 1:10-11 again. How do you understand the impact of John’s words more fully with Exodus 26 and Revelation 21 in mind?

Apply to Our Story

5. In John 1:1-18, John identifies 3 possible responses to Jesus. What are they?
6. Do you know people who do not know Jesus? Do you know people who “know” him but have not received him?
 - a. Share who some of these people may be, and how (if) you pray regularly for them.
 - b. As a group, begin a list of those you are praying for to know and receive Jesus.

Prayer

- *Pray in Adoration: Because Jesus is God he is Worthy of our Worship!*
- *Pray in Confession for the ways in which you have not appreciated or taken advantage of God’s desire to dwell with his people*
- *Pray in Supplication for people you know to receive Jesus.*

God’s work and our Work

How All of Life Connects to the Gospel - in John 1:1-18

The direct application of this text is, because Jesus is God he is worthy of our worship. People are called to receive and believe in the name of Jesus to become children of God. There are also additional implications of how we should live, as children of God, in light of John 1:1-18.

John 1:1-18 highlights the fact that Jesus was “working” in creation before sin even entered the world.¹ John 1:3 affirms that Jesus was with God, making everything that was made. Therefore, everyone we live among, everything we work with (all natural resources), everywhere we live and work (the ground we inhabit), was created by Jesus and is immensely valuable to Jesus. The eternal God would not have taken on flesh (John 1:14) if this was not the case. Theologian and politician [Abraham Kuyper](#) says it this way, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”

If Christ cries ‘Mine’ over all aspects of our daily life, all the people we encounter are valuable, and everything we do can be done to his glory - in a way which acknowledges Jesus and leads us to worship.

- The bible teaches that work is good for people and was created by God (Genesis 2:15). In this text we also see that Jesus was working in creation (John 1:2-3) before sin entered the world. How do these truths impact how we view our own work (employment, caring for family, school, volunteering)?
- Where do you spend the most time each week? At home, at school, at work?
 - How does it change your attitude towards this ‘place’ or its people if you consider they were created by Jesus and for Jesus? (Colossians 1:16-17)
- What is one practical way you can reflect God’s great love for all people this week? In your neighbourhood, your school, your workplace, or your family?

¹ <https://www.theologyofwork.org/new-testament/john/the-words-work-in-the-world-john-11-18>