

John 1: The Word

As always - use these questions as prompts, don't try to cover everything

John 1 1-18

- what does John mean by 'the word'?
- why didn't John just say 'In the beginning was Jesus'?
- where and when was John living when he wrote his gospel? - so who were his readers?
- why did John write his gospel?

- what did the word 'word' (or logos) mean (and not mean) to his Greek readers? (reason / rationality and even the reason that the universe existed) but not a divine being
- have you come across the view that there is 'something out there' but not a personal god
- can you see why it is such good news that the world - and you - exist because God willed it rather than because of some accident of nature?

- Jesus is the alpha and omega - the beginning and the end - the creator - sustainer - redeemer - whichever way you look at the world, at history, at theology - he is at the centre
- before anything else - we need to recognise this fact - it is all about him

Read Luke 20:17-18 and Matthew 16: 24-26 - discuss what Jesus is teaching

- can you apply this teaching to yourself?
- what are some of the promises that Jesus gives to those who follow him?

- do you recognise the danger of trying to retain control in your life? - or if you like, keeping the power of veto over what God says to you - are there some things that you need to hand back over to God?
- are there any specific things in your life that God has called you to but that you have resisted - will you repent and make a commitment to obey?
- are you holding onto worry? - are there things that you need to give over to God and allow him to provide what is needed?

John 1 starts - in the beginning was the logos - in the beginning was the reason - before ever God created he was already completely self sufficient - he was the totality of existence - the centre of everything

and yet - even at this time - he already had you on his mind - before he even created - he knew you by name and had chosen you -

so you can be confident of his love - it has been settled on you since before the foundation of the world - - there should be no fear in relinquishing control - his love is greater than you can imagine - and his riches beyond counting -and he beckons you to come -

let him be at his rightful place - in the centre of your life - and you will positioned to receive his blessing

Adriaan van den Broek — 4 Feb 2018