

## DAILY TIME

### SECTION 1 | JOHN 1:1-13

Do you notice those fliers that advertise campus events on bulletin boards? Yeah, me neither. Who pays attention to those things? We see them, but we don't really see them. These fliers advertise all sorts of campus happenings. Maybe it's some lame event or a comedian coming to campus in a few weeks or inviting you to chess club (who wants to go to chess club? Me!). Whatever it is, these fliers are full of announcements. Every club or organization is trying to get the word about their event, and they are doing it so that folks like you and I will happen to catch a glance and have our interest piqued.

When announcements are done well, they draw us in. They awaken in us some desire or flare our imaginations. They get us excited. They might promise to answer some great question we have or to entertain us for awhile or invite us into a different life. Not all announcements are done well (I'm looking at you, pastel yellow sheets of paper above the water fountain), but some are. Think of announcement or advertisement that you've seen before that has done this well. What made it so compelling?

## JOHN 1:1-13

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



The first verses from the gospel of John are meant, like any good announcement, to draw us in and catch our attention. It's supposed to grab us by the shoulders and shake us from our slumber and invite us to a different way of living. But it starts with listening: what is this announcement? Who is it about? Why is it important?

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## SECTION 2 | JOHN 1:6-14

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the



world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

- ❓ What is the role of John, the “man sent from God?”
- ❓ In light of the announcement heard in section 1, how are we to understand verse 14?
- ❓ This announcement tells of some who receive the light and some who don’t. What does it mean to receive the light? How can we recognize the light?

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### **SECTION 3 | JOHN 1:1-5, 14-18**

This announcement clearly has *something* to do with God. Before returning to the passage, write out your description of God. It’s not a trick question: who is God, to you? Don’t just write Sunday school answers. Write out the images or words that come to your mind when you think about God.



## JOHN 1:1-5, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**?** Describe the relationship between “God” and “Jesus” (or the “Word”) in as many words as you can.



## GROUP TIME

### WEEK 1 - THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This week, we are reading the most important announcement in human history. This announcement is so important because it tells us about God. “God” can be a funny word because so many people think of different things when they hear it. Earlier this week, you were asked to reflect on who God is to you.

Start your group by discussing what you wrote about God. It’s okay—there are no wrong answers. Well, there are, but no one is going to scold you for them! Are there similarities among the group? Differences? Why do you think about God the way you do and what accounts for the differences? Do you know other people who think very different from you about God?

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Let’s get to the announcement. Good announcements start with us listening. Read the following verses aloud in your group.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

❓ Start by simply discussing the passage. Is there anything you found confusing? Was there something you didn't like...or really liked?

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❓ In these verses (and especially verses 1-3, 14, and 18) John says some radical things about the relationship of "the Word" (a.k.a. Jesus or the Son) and God. What are those radical things? What does this mean for how we can or should talk about God? Would you revise any of your earlier descriptions about God in light of this?

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In John 1:1-13, Jesus is called “the Word.” The original Greek word used by John is *Logos*. Although it roughly translates as “Word,” what makes this word unique is that it has both a Jewish and Greek background. See the following chart:

<i>Jewish understanding of "Logos"</i>	<i>Greek understanding of "Logos"</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified with “Wisdom” and “Torah” (or Law)</li> <li>• Both personal and beyond personal</li> <li>• Bridges the gulf between God and human reason</li> <li>• Descended from heaven</li> <li>• A special object of God’s love</li> <li>• Sits by the throne of God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guiding and ordering principle of the Universe</li> <li>• Rules all things and is present in them</li> <li>• The “Law,” common to all, which people should follow</li> <li>• In practice identical to God</li> <li>• Eternal and Ever-present</li> </ul>

❓ John was aware of both of these backgrounds. What would you say John is trying to communicate about his version of *Logos*? Who is Jesus?

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❓ How does what we think about God affect how we live?

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❓ A 4th century Christian theologian and poet, Gregory of Nazianzus, said that Jesus had to “become flesh” and assume the entirety of our humanity—not just certain parts. It wouldn’t



do to say Jesus had a God-like mind or soul but a human body. He had to be fully human in every way. Why? Because, Gregory insisted, “what is unassumed is unhealed.” What does he mean by this?

### **LIVING IT OUT**

As a group, decide how you’re going to apply something from this week’s discussion. Write out what you decide here.

