

**December 23, 2018**  
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**Study Questions**  
**John 1:1-18**

1. The gospel of John was written about 110 AD and is notably different from the other three gospels (the synoptics, meaning they tend to see Jesus Christ in “same eyes”). The first 18 verses are our scripture. Read those verses and comment on what sounds different from the usual Christmas stories in the Bible.
2. John introduces the Word as God’s presence in the world. The first five verses tell a number of characteristics of the Word. Which ones catch your attention and why?
3. If “the darkness” refers not just to night but also to parts of life as we experience it, what does the light refer to? Importantly, what is the relation between the darkness and the light (careful, this is not as one might at first assume!)?
4. John the Baptist is referenced in verses 6-8. What are the important aspects of his life according to John? What examples do you know from the Bible of how John fulfills that calling?
5. In verse 10, Jesus (or the Word) has an interesting relationship with humans. What is it? Verse 11 references what subset of humanity in particular?
6. Verse 12-13 is the key. What can humanity do, Hebrews do, you do in order to become a child of God?
7. Comment on the implication of rebirth, or new birth in these last two verses.
8. In verses 14-16, we find what happened when Jesus became incarnate. What would you say that experience includes?
9. Verse 17 contrasts law with grace and truth. This contrast is the subject of eternal and spiritually strengthening debate. What do you think of the differences?