

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 1:1-9

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Sermon Summary:

John's gospel is different from the other gospels as well as the NT epistles. His brilliant way of writing reaches the unbelieving Greeks as well as the Jewish people. He presents Jesus as the eternal Word

of God as well as the personal Word, not just a divine principle. This challenged everyone, both Jews and Gentile philosophers to have a right relationship with Him, to believe in Him and to receive Him.

The Jews needed to receive him as the divine Son of God, as God. The Greeks need to align themselves not with a principle but with a person. How will we respond?

Discussion:

1. John writes using the same words to address two different peoples. The Jews and the Gentiles. How did he address the Jews? How did he address the Gentiles?
2. Why would John's writings be radical to these two groups of people?
3. Jesus is presented as light. John 1:4 can be translated as "*That light shines in the darkness, and yet **the darkness did not overcome it.*** Or "*That light shines in the darkness, and yet **the darkness did not comprehend it.***" How do both of these translations help us understand the relationship between light and darkness?
4. Jesus is the true light that gives light to the world. What does **world** mean?
5. Why does the world seem to be in darkness? What keeps people in darkness?
6. How can we receive the light and be in the light?

End with Prayer:

- Pray for a heart to receive Jesus as light.