

Poynton Parish Church January 2015
Home Group Notes 1
John 1:1-5 In the beginning

Introduction

John received Revelation on the island of Patmos, so he probably lived his later life in or near Ephesus and wrote for both Jews and Gentiles.

1. Which is your favourite gospel? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John? Why?
2. If you were telling the account of Jesus' birth, where would you start? What would you include and why?
3. **Read verse 1** What is meant by The Word? How do you know?

*The Greek word **LOGOS** means 'word' and 'rationality' so it seems that John's use of language is pointing to Jesus being 'what God wants to say' and 'the one through whom we make sense of everything else'. Discuss*

4. **Read Genesis 1:1** Why would John make an allusion to Genesis?
5. Think about your own beginnings; when do you think back to? How far back could you go with your own beginnings?
6. Some say that God made humans and some say that humans invented God. What does John say? What do you say?
7. **Read John 1:1-4** Read it again one verse at a time, and put the meaning of each verse in your own words before moving on to the next.

8. *Jehovah's witnesses point to their own 'new world' translation, which says Jesus was 'a god', in order to prove their point that Jesus was not God. If you found yourself in this conversation, how could you go about answering, if you wanted to?*
9. In vv.4-5, Jesus is described as the source of life and light, which is no surprise given the obvious allusion to Genesis 1 in these first verses of John. Do you describe Jesus in this sort of way? Or praise him for these aspects of his greatness?
10. A pagan would understand the idea of light and darkness, and so would a Jewish reader in a differently developed way. Can you see how John's clever ambiguity draws in both hearers? Augustine once said that the Gospel of John is **deep enough** for an elephant to swim and **shallow enough** for a child not to drown. Is this a good thing?
11. The aim of John's gospel is that 'we might believe that Jesus is the Christ and so have life in His name'. How has this passage helped you? And what focus will you take away with you?

Prayer Points

Thank the Lord that he wants all people to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise Jesus as the source of light and life

Thank the Lord that he does not give up on sinful people

Pray for us as we read and study and are changed by John's gospel

Pray for refugees from Syria, Iraq, receiving aid

Pray for those with ebola in West Africa and elsewhere

Pray for Rob and Peter as they prepare to go to Tamil Nadu