

# Poynton Parish Church January 2015

## Home Group Notes 3

### The Word became flesh

#### Introduction

Some things are so challenging to the prevailing world-view that they cannot help but be shocking, however we express it.

1. *What do you think of camping? Have you camped in a tent? What's good about it? What's bad about it?*
2. John 1v14: The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us. How does this use of words help explain what Jesus did for us?
3. The tent illustration is most likely an allusion to the tabernacle in Moses' time. What do you know of the tabernacle in Exodus? Read Exodus 25v8. What did the tabernacle mean for the Old Testament people of God? And what does Jesus mean for us?
4. In Exodus 40vv34-38, the glory of the Lord was shown by the cloud and filled the tabernacle. How has the glory of God been shown to us New Testament people of God?
5. *Glory = visible manifestation of God's self-disclosure. Discuss*
6. **Read John 1v14** What does John mean by 'the One and Only' when he describes Jesus? How is Jesus unique?
7. So far we have concentrated on the understanding of this key verse from its Old Testament meaning for the Jewish people. From Week 1's study, who else would we expect to be helped?
8. *The words for Word and flesh in Greek are words of great significance. Logos meant speech and rationality and was held in honour by the strong intellectual tradition of classical Greece.*

*Sarx, on the other hand, was a word with negative vibes. Many were dualists after Plato: word/spirit good, flesh bad; mind good, body bad; logos good, sarx bad; the two were opposites. Can you start to imagine how shocking it was to a Eastern Mediterranean citizen, with a culture strongly influenced by Greek thought, for John to write: the Word became flesh?*

9. Might this also have been an offensive concept for Jews? How separate did they understand God and humans to be?
10. Was this verse worth the shock and offence it will have caused to people? Are you ever provocative when you share the gospel?
11. **Read vv.14-18**  
What is Jesus full of? How does his fullness help others?
12. What can we receive and know by Jesus' incarnation that we could not through the law of Moses alone?
13. What has vv.1-18 taught you about the nature of Jesus and the nature of human response? How will this help you?
14. Would you like to read the rest of John's gospel up to chapter thirteen before we set off from there in our next session? Why not sit down and read it at one sitting?

#### Prayer Points

*Thank God for the amazing good news within the gospel of John  
Pray for wisdom in knowing how educated shock and provocation can be used in personal evangelism to others we know  
Pray for our clergy and readers and home group leaders in their ministry of the word and their relationship with Jesus Christ  
Pray for our lives to be motivated by the grace and truth from Jesus  
Pray for our progress with the Besom Project, forming a partnership and forming a core team  
Pray for our work amongst parents and toddlers as we seek a new overseer for our large Wednesday Parent/Toddler work and pray too for WLTD*