

Small Group Discussion Guide

Discussion Guide: To Be or – January 12, 2025

John 1:1-5, 14-18

Objective:

To explore how John introduces Jesus as the eternal Word, present Word, and incarnate Word, and to reflect on the significance of Jesus as both grace and truth in our lives.

1. Warm-Up: Who is Jesus to You?

- **Icebreaker Question:** If you were to introduce Jesus to someone who has never heard of Him, what would you say?
 - Share any initial thoughts or experiences about how Jesus has been introduced to you in the past.
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2. Exploring the Passage

Read John 1:1-5 and 14-18

Discussion Questions:

A. The Eternal Word (“The Word Was”)

- Why do you think John starts with “In the beginning”? How does this tie back to Genesis 1?
- What does the term *Logos* mean in this context? How does it deepen our understanding of who Jesus is?
- Reflect: How does understanding Jesus as eternal impact your faith?

B. The Present Word (“The Word Is”)

- John describes Jesus as life and light.
 - What do these metaphors reveal about Jesus?
 - How have you experienced Jesus as life and light in your personal journey?

- Discuss how light and darkness are portrayed in the passage. Why is it significant that the light triumphs over darkness?

C. The Incarnate Word (“The Word Became”)

- What does it mean that the Word became flesh and dwelled among us?
 - How does the image of God dwelling with His people connect to the Old Testament (e.g., the tent of meeting, tabernacle)?
 - Reflect: Why is the incarnation of Jesus central to Christianity?
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3. Grace and Truth: Living Out the Word

Key Verse: John 1:17

- How do grace and truth balance in Jesus? Why are both essential?
- Consider the statement: *"Truth sets the standard, and grace provides what we need to meet it."*
 - How have you seen or struggled with living out this balance in your own life?
 - Share examples of when grace or truth was more challenging for you to embrace.

Reflection Activity:

- Think about areas in your life where you need to embrace more grace or truth.
 - Pair up or break into smaller groups to share and pray for one another in these areas.
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4. Responding to the Word

- **Call to Action:** Reflect on the “gift” of salvation that Jesus offers. Have you unwrapped it fully, or is it still “sitting under the tree”?
- How can this group encourage one another to live out the truth and grace of Jesus in the week ahead?

Prayer Time:

- Thank God for Jesus as the eternal, present, and incarnate Word.
- Pray for the ability to live out both grace and truth in daily life.

Additional Reflection for the Week:

- **Passage to Memorize:** John 1:14 – “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.”