



Small Group Discussion Questions
“The Word and The Way”
Pastor Tyler Scott
September 7/8, 2013

John, often referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” has given us an incredible, compelling, eyewitness account of the life, times, teaching and passion of Jesus.

We are cordially invited to get to know Jesus – John’s best friend – through this amazing gospel account. It is written (originally in Greek) for a combined Jewish/Greek audience, and its chief aim is to provide a great picture of *who Jesus is...* so that the hearers would *believe*, and have abundant life in Jesus’ name.

The structure of John’s gospel is simple: introduction (chapter 1), public ministry (chapter 2-11), private talks (chapters 12-17), passion (18-20), and the powerful resurrection and restoration account (chapter 21).

Warm it up

Share about your favorite book of the bible, and why you enjoy it. If you are new to the bible, share about what you’re looking for if/when you read the bible.

Share about the nicest event you’ve ever been invited to – wedding, party, etc. What made the event so meaningful, memorable or magnificent?

Describe your best friend, including some the reasons/stories that forged your great friendship.

Talk it Over

Read John 1:1-18.

1. John makes it obvious from the first word of his gospel that it’s important for us to know who Jesus is. Read v1-2. What aspect of “who Jesus is” is revealed? What is the significance of Jesus being “the Word?”

2. Read v1-3. What evidence do you see for Jesus being not just the living Word, but God? What about these first 3 verses reminds you of the start of Genesis?

3. Read v4-9. What does it mean that Jesus is “the Light?” Describe the type of darkness that exists in our world, and how Jesus can and does bring light that overcomes darkness.

4. Read v10-13. This week’s sermon was titled “The Word and The Way.” Based on these verses, Jesus is “the way” to what? Can you think of any other verses from John that relate to Jesus being “the Way?”

5. Read v14 and v18. What do you think is significant about Jesus being referred to as both God and the Son of God in this introductory section of John?

6. Read v18. In your own words, how does Jesus “make God known?” In other words, how does Jesus explain God (His love, His heart, etc.)?

Work it Through

1. Tyler gave 3 specific examples of HOW we can get to know Jesus: READ, COME, and CONNECT. Which of these three actions do you feel most led/encouraged to take...in order to get to know Jesus better? Why do you think you’re feeling compelled to do so?
 - a. In what ways do we tend to treat the invitation to get to know Jesus by reading the bible like a “Terms of Agreement” box...where we simply check the box and move on? What happens when we do this?

 - b. Have you ever had a season of your life where the reading of God’s Word produced great results? If so, share about it.

2. What gets in the way of coming to church on a regular basis?

3. Take turns discussing what you think are the top 2-3 benefits of “CONNECTING” with others – whether in small groups, women’s groups, men’s groups, or serving.

4. In the sermon, Tyler gave three examples of the kinds of growth we can expect through Jesus: DELIGHT BETTER DECISIONS, and DEPTH. Which of these speaks most directly to your heart, and why?
 - a. Share an example of how “duty” turned into “delight” from your life.

 - b. Share an example of better decision making in your life (of someone close to you), based growing in relationship to Jesus.

 - c. Share an example of growth in your past that is “BOOM!” type growth. And share an example of growth that is “beep” type growth. (Note: “BOOM!” is loud and obvious growth, like when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. “Beep” is subtle yet significant growth...and piques our interest for more.)

5. Why do you think it is significant that John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved?” What can we learn from this statement of John’s identity, in relation to our own sense of identity?

Pray it Through

Pray for one another as we launch this new series and study of the Gospel of John. Share around and take prayer requests from one another...and commit to upholding one another in prayer on a daily/weekly basis. Pray specifically for “action steps” that stood out to each of you – whether it was to read, come (to church) or connect with other Christ followers to encourage your relationship with Jesus. Thank God for this incredible, eyewitness account in John’s gospel.