



Opening Up:

What Christmas tradition do you most enjoy?

Generally speaking, do you look forward to this holiday season? Explain.

Read: John 1:1-18

Discuss:

1. Why did John write his gospel? See John 20:31.
2. When did you first believe in Jesus? Tell the group your story.
3. What truths in verses 1-9 are hard to believe? Is not knowing all of the answers challenging to your faith? How does Isaiah 55:8-9 help or hinder your belief?
4. Have you ever been or are you currently angry at God? Tell your story. Is it okay to be angry at God? How does John 1:14 help us to deal with our suffering and our disappointment with God?
5. When the "word became flesh" God spoke to us in a profound way. Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is the "exact imprint" of God's nature. Describe the character of God as displayed in the life of Jesus.
6. In verses 12-13 it is clear that our rebirth or new life is not the result of our will, but it is something we can "receive" and "believe." Have you received and believed in Jesus? What is different about your life?
7. Jesus does more than bridge the gap between us and God. Jesus closes the gap. One day, Revelations 21:22-23 says, we will not need a tabernacle or temple to connect to God. Jesus will restore, completely restore, our broken relationship. What relationship in your life needs restoration? Ask the group to give feedback as to how the incarnation of the Word can instruct us in seeking restoration.
8. Since 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that we are God's temple on earth and this is the role Jesus played as he dwelled (or tabernacle among us), what does Jesus teach us about how we should live? In other words: Why is it important that we stay connected to God? What will others miss out on when we are not connected to God? What happens in your life when you are not connected to God? What happened when Jesus' connection with the Father was kept? What might have happened if Jesus had not been connected to the Father?
9. Pray.