

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

1. Discuss the message you received from the *Small, Dancing Light* music presented Sunday.
2. What “light” danced for you in the brief sermon?

INTRO TO THE TEXT:

John 1:1-18 is an overture, a prologue, to the book of John--a unique gospel written for the purpose “*that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*” (John 20:31) Among the great themes introduced in this prologue, Christ’s identity, light versus darkness, and witnessing to the light are prominent.

READ John 1:1-18

ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. There are echoes of Genesis 1 in John 1. What parallels do you see between John 1:1-4 and Genesis 1:1-4?
2. The Greek term for “word” is “logos.” What is the unique meaning of “Word” in John 1:1? What do the three clauses in this verse tell you about Jesus?
3. What are key words in John 1:4-5? What special advent message do these words have for you?
4. John the Baptist was a witness to the light. (John 1:6-9, 15) What was his role? What does “testify concerning that light” mean? How is John the Baptist an example for Christians today?
5. How do verses 5 and 10-13 illustrate the sharp contrast between light and darkness? John 3:19-21 develops this theme. What are some of the qualities of light in the natural sense? Where do you see the power of light in these verses?
6. John identifies several qualities of Jesus in verses 14-18. Why is it so important to the Christian faith that God became flesh? How is Christ’s character expressed in these verses?

A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany have been called the Cycle of Light. The symbol of light ties these

seasons of the Christian liturgical calendar together in three ways: (1) anticipation of “a great light” (Isaiah 9:2), (2) celebration of the “true light coming into the world” (John 1:9), and (3) proclamation of Jesus as the “light of the world” (John 8:12). Light and Life are key ideas in the gospel of John. John tells that all things came into being through Christ and that through him was life and that light was the light of all mankind. Verse 5 suggests a conflict between light and darkness. Darkness is sometimes synonymous with spiritual blindness and sometimes refers to evil. However, Jesus came to dispel the darkness, and the power of Christ’s light overcomes the darkness.

John the Baptist testified concerning the light of Christ and prepared the way for mankind to believe. Verses 14-18 give a clear statement of the full divinity of Jesus. The magnitude of thoughts such as “the Word became flesh,” “the glory of the One and Only,” and “full of grace and truth” are glimpses of the power of the light of Christ.

Perhaps the simple song, “This little gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine” should be added to the repertoire of traditional carols sung for Christmas as a reminder of the powerful light of Christ.

APPLY

1. How is light a part of Advent and Christmas observance in our city? In our church? In your family?
2. What are ways that you can include Bible verses about light in your family and personal Advent/Christmas traditions?
3. What are ways that you can be a “witness to the light” in our city? In our church? In your family?
4. Where do you see areas of darkness that need the light of Christ? How can you help to bring the light of Christ to those dark areas?

MEMORIZE

John 1:14a (NIV) “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*”

Suggestions for further reading: *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*, Adam Hamilton