



SDG Discussion Guide

"How to Take the Gospel to Our Friends - using John"

John 1:1-5; 12

July 30, 2017

For starters:

What nicknames did you have growing up, maybe even until now? How were these nicknames derived?

Interaction with the text (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon texts. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective texts.)

Read John 1.

1. Who is the "Word" referring to in verses 1 through 5? What are some of the other names used to refer to Jesus in the rest of the chapter, and which names stick out to you in particular? Why?
2. Why would the Gospel of John begin "in the beginning" rather than at Jesus' birth? What could be the significance of this?
3. What can we learn about the Word based on the characteristics given in the first few verses? What do these characteristics tell us about the God whose good news we are called to share?
4. What does verse 5 show about the light that Jesus brings? How does this affect us in our modern world?
5. Given the image of "receiving" someone in verse 12, how would you explain what faith is to a seeker or new believer based on this? What is the result of having this kind of faith?
6. Immediately following verse 12, a contrast is provided in verse 13 about earthly children versus the children of God. What significance does this contrast hold for those who received Jesus, especially to new believers who had the Gospel presented to them?

Pray for each other that you may receive the light and life of Jesus as you take in the truths of who Jesus is as presented in the Gospel of John. Pray that you would have the courage to step out in faith to shine Jesus' light in your day-to-day lives. Also pray for any specific requests that you might have as a group, that the Lord may reassure who with His presence and the truth of who He is.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996), *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998), and *The NIV Life Application Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2011).