

Week 13&14: Lead Others to Jesus Pt 3&4

John 1:1-18

To be studied in preparation for December 16 & 23, 2018.

this is life:

A people apprenticed to
the Life of Jesus

Leader's Note: Please refer to the resource, "Storying," available [on our website](#), for a detailed guide on how to facilitate storying in your group.

Leader's Note: As Christmas approaches, your group may be nearing the last of its meetings together for 2018. This study is designed to prepare your group to hear the messages for the next two weeks. If your group is not meeting together to study Scripture again before Christmas, consider sending this study guide to them as a devotional tool for personal study.

Why We Have Gathered

Our common goal as apprentices of Jesus is to learn to be *loved by Jesus*, to be *led by Jesus*, to *become like Jesus*, to *lead others to Jesus*.

Establishing "Safe Harbour"

For us to open up to God and one another, the environment needs to be safe, and we each need to be safe for each other. Let's remember the following guidelines:

- Practice *good listening skills*
- Honour "*sharing boundaries*" and *confidentiality*
- *Don't try to fix, problem-solve or rescue*. Our aim is "*gospel fluency*"
- Practice *healthy conflict resolution*
- Seek to be *co-learners* and make this a safe space to ask *any and all questions*.

Week 14 Follow-up: *How could you take a step toward a more mature apprenticeship to Jesus, by embracing his shepherding heart for another believer or group of believers in your life?*

Entering Into the Story: John 1:1-18

Setting the Scene: The Gospel of John is a theological masterpiece, the fruit of decades of reflection by John, one of Jesus' twelve apprentices. John has brought together a story full of signs pointing to the identity of Jesus as God's Messiah, the Son of God. This introduction is a profound poem of praise to Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God. There are two specific images that John uses: the image of LIGHT, and the image of INCARNATION, or "en-FLESH-ment." God's perfect expression of Himself, the Word, becomes the Light of the World (see John 8:12). God's will has been "enfleshed" in Jesus, the perfect "image of God," and has "moved into the neighbourhood" (1:12 MSG). And Jesus' identity is something he wants to reproduce in his apprentices. So as you listen to this amazing reflection on the identity of Jesus, consider: **Who or what do you relate to most in this teaching, and why?**

Tell the Story: The leader will tell John 1:1-18 from memory..

Rebuild the Story: Let's open up our Bibles to John 1:1-18.

- *Walk through, chronologically, verse by verse, asking "Who, What, Where, When, How, and sometimes Why" questions. Where did the leader add or omit details?*

Read the Story: Read the story in one translation. If there's time, read a second translation.

Debrief the Story: Let's respond to the following questions:

- *Who or what do you relate to in this story, and why?*
- *What questions arise for you out of John's meditation on the person of Jesus?*
- *What vision or goal are the positive images in this story calling us toward?*
- *How are these verses a picture of the fourth movement of apprenticeship, "fishing for people"?*
- *In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus says that the community of his apprentices are the Light of the World. How does this inform our understanding of the outcome of apprenticeship?*
- *In Ephesians 4:11-16, the church is called "the Body of Christ." How does this stretch our understanding of what the incarnation means today?*
- *What are the practical implications of what John 1:1-18, Matthew 4:14-16, and Ephesians 4:11-16 teach for our lives TODAY?*
- *What specific action do you sense God asking you/us to do as a result of our conversation with Him through his Word?*

Praying for One Another

Using the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a guide, and based on what has come to the surface in your sharing together, lift one another to God in prayer.

WORSHIP

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Express your thanks and praise to your heavenly Father for his work in your lives.

PETITION

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

Invite God to be King in the various areas of your life, as well as for practical needs, people far from God, the church's mission and its leadership.

CONFESSION

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

Repent of any sin, express forgiveness regarding any broken relationship, and ask for God's help in bringing reconciliation wherever it is needed.

ENGAGEMENT

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Ask God to lead, protect and heal you wherever it is needed. Give time to listen and respond to the Spirit's voice.

WORSHIP

For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Close by praising God for who he is, and for anticipated opportunities and answers to prayer.

