



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study

Chapter 1

How to effectively use this guide:

During the fall and the early winter of 2023, we will be digging into the Book of John, one chapter per week. This guide is intended to give you an additional tool to dig into this scripture at an even deeper level with your small group.

We suggest that you break each chapter in smaller chunks throughout the week. (NOTE: We have given you a sample reading plan below.)

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures even more and provide discussion points for your meeting.

When you meet, we suggest meeting for 90 minutes to 2 hours, asking a different person each week to bring a snack to share, allowing for time to connect, worship, discuss what was read, and pray for each other.

Please go over the agreement below as a small group the first time you meet and each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.

- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking for your group.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: Lion Elevation Worship

https://youtu.be/2go_dOJVwc4

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #1 Reading Plan

Day 1: John 1:1-18

Day 2: John 1:19-28

Day 3: John 1:29-34

Day 4: John 1:35-42

Day 5: John 1:43-50

Questions

In John Chapter 1: 1-2, John makes a startling proclamation. The term "In the beginning" is a clear reference to Genesis 1, stating that Jesus was there in the beginning with God. How does this revelation change or impact your view of who Jesus is? How does that impact your life?

In John 1:3, John makes an even bolder claim, stating that Jesus is not only eternal, He is co-creator and all things were made through Him. How does this change your view of who Jesus is? How does that impact your life?

In John 1:4-5, John calls Jesus the light of all mankind. How does this verse impact your perception of light vs dark, good vs evil?

In verse 6 we are introduced to John the Baptist. What role was John the Baptist sent to perform? How does that impact our role?

Jesus has been from the beginning with God and is God. "Nobody has seen God" but Jesus "has made Him known." (verse 18) Where was Jesus seen in the Old Testament?

Why do you think it was important for John the Baptist to minimize himself and point to Jesus?

What do you believe about Baptism? Why do you think Jesus got baptized?

John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" in verse 35. In Old Testament times, when and why was a lamb used? How does that relate to Jesus?

Imagine Jesus asking you, "What are you looking for?" (verse 38) What would you reply?

Later in Chapter 1, starting in verse 40,, we meet several of the disciples for the first time. What are some of the characteristics needed to become a disciple of Christ?

Jesus renames Simon (means to hear or be heard) and calls him Cephas (translated as Peter, which means rock). The name God gives leads to a new identity and or a promise. Which people in the Old Testament did God rename? What foreshadowing is found in renaming Simon? How do you see Jesus reworking / renaming you? How does that impact your life?