

Exploring the fullness of God

Week 1: The Human God

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Icebreaker. Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to write down three words that summarise why they follow Jesus Christ. Ask each person to share their three words and if appropriate to elaborate on their choices.

WORSHIP

Sing or listen to the song, The Servant King. Then respond with of a time of prayerful worship.

WORD

Read John 1.1-18

1. What sacrifices did Jesus make by becoming human? Why did he choose to do this?

2. What similarities are there between John 1.1-5 and Genesis 1.1-3?

Growth Group Notes

Spring 2024



3. Why do you think that John mirrors the beginning of Genesis in the introduction to his gospel?

4. Read John 1.1-5,14, but where it says, 'the word', say 'Jesus' instead. Which of these biblical truths is the hardest to understand?

5. Read John 1.6-9. What was John the Baptist's role? How would you respond to someone saying that Christians are narrowminded for believing that everyone should believe in Jesus and that he is the true light for all people.

6. Read John 1.10-13. What does it tell us about becoming a child of God.

7. What do these verses say to someone who says I'm a Christian because I was brought up in a Christian home?

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WHAT NEXT?

Many people still struggle to accept that Jesus was truly God in human form. The passage we have studied is one many that clearly state who Jesus is. Other passages include Hebrews 1.1-4, Colossians 1.15-20 and John 5.19-27.

Jesus never said, 'I am God'. However Jesus claimed to have direct access to the Father, the ability to forgive sins and to be worthy of worship. The Jewish leaders understood these to be the equivalent of saying he is God. Jesus was executed for blasphemy – for claiming to be God. If he is God, it is not blasphemy.

C.S. Lewis famously declared that there were only three possibilities:

1. Jesus was a lunatic, who thought he was God but was deluded.
2. Jesus was a liar, deliberately pretending to be God to deceive people.
3. Jesus was truly Lord and was telling the truth.

What can we do?

During the week you could read through John's gospel and make a note of and reflect of the human difficulties that Jesus encountered in his earthly lifetime. Then perhaps take time to think about your own difficulties too, the things you struggle with. It is part of being human. Jesus chose to embrace the human condition: he emptied himself on our behalf rather than clinging to his divine power. We are not Jesus, but we need Jesus and we need each other. Sometimes we need to reach out and ask for support.

Everyone needs Jesus. Who could you invite to an Alpha Course so that they can have a opportunity to hear about Jesus? Will you take a deep breath and do it? They may have been waiting for (and indeed hoping for) an invitation.