

## Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 1:1-5 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

### CONNECT Group study questions, John 1:1-5

January 11, 2015

#### Title: What Every Christian Needs to Know About Jesus

**Read to the group:** Talk to anyone in real estate and they'll tell you the three most important factors in buying and selling property are location, location, location. Your local astrophysicist will tell you the same thing. We occupy an exclusive piece of real estate in the universe where a narrow set of circumstances allow us to exist, and those same narrow circumstances also provide us the best overall setting for making scientific discoveries. Only the earth's atmosphere can sustain complex life and only the earth's atmosphere is transparent, made up of mostly nitrogen and oxygen with very little carbon, which would make the atmosphere hazy. We have a location in the solar system that is habitable, has an atmosphere like a window, and located in a spot in our galaxy with a view to the universe, a universe that is ordered and intelligible in a way that human beings are capable of understanding. "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible." —Albert Einstein  
The Gospel of John begins by introducing us to the eternal Creator of the universe who made it in the beginning when there was no beginning.

**Question:** Usually, an introduction will include the reason for writing and what the author hopes to accomplish. John the Apostle chooses to do this near the end of his gospel in John 20:31. He writes: *"...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* He gives us a similar postscript in 1 John 5:13: *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."* In what way or ways are these verses similar? How are they different?

**Question:** Read John 1:1 and then read Genesis 1:1. How are these two verses similar? How are they different?

**Facilitator:** Let the group mull this over for awhile, then point out that the Genesis 1:1 verse begins with an historical event—creation—while the John 1:1 verse begins with an already present and eternal existence—the Word.

**Question:** For centuries, people have struggled to understand the trinity, the three-in-one godhead, but we still fail to fully grasp the concept. What facts can we learn about the relationship between God and the Word? **Facilitator:** Point out that verse 1, the Word was both "with God" and "was God," establishes Jesus' deity. Verse 2, that the Word was in the beginning before there was a beginning establishes Jesus is eternal. And verse 3 says Jesus created the universe, including all of us.

**Question:** With the early Church under attack by the false doctrines of gnosticism, John obviously saw the need to establish the Lord Jesus Christ as eternal God and Creator. Discuss why it is important for you to know that He is the eternal God and Creator of the universe. Why is this foundational to Christianity?

**Question:** Peppy points out the similarities of ancient gnosticism and teachings of Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses. Are you aware of other present-day cults and philosophies that oppose the facts as John presents them in John 1:1-5? **Facilitator:** Materialism (matter is all there is), humanism (man determines his destiny and must save himself) and atheism (there is no God) is even more rampant in our society than Mormonism and JW.

Encourage group members to discuss ways in which false teachings and philosophies undermine biblical Christianity.