

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 1:14-18 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 1:14-18

January 25, 2015

Title: Proofs That the Word Became Flesh

Read to the group:

"My Savior My God"

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed what God has planned
I only know at his right hand
Stands one who is my Savior

I take him at his word and deed
Christ died to save me this I read
And in my heart I find the need
Of him to be my Savior

That he would leave his place on high
And come for sinful man to die
You called it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior

And, oh, that he fulfilled may see
The travail of his soul in me
and with his work contented be
As I with my dear Savior

Yes, living, dying let me bring
My strength, my Solace from this Spring
That he who lives to be my king
Once died to be my Savior

—Dora Greenwell

Question: Prove it! It's a reasonable demand when a statement is presented as a fact that might be true, or might not be true. What everyday statements can you think of, or make up, that may or may not be true. **Facilitator:** Ask for rapid-fire brainstorm statements like "It's 50 degrees and cloudy," or "I love you," or "My chair was made in China," or "Icebergs are melting and we're all gonna die!" Have fun with this.

Question: When you heard each of those brainstorm statements presented as fact, you may have thought some were outrageous, some were a matter of life or death and some didn't matter. In verse 14, John writes: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." How would you describe that statement? Outrageous? Important life or death? Doesn't matter? Or do you have another category for it? How would other people describe that statement?

Question: John the Apostle thought the statement invited doubt, but was important enough to follow up with proof. Why is "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" an important statement? Why would it invite doubt? Why is it important to you personally? Does it affect how you pray? **Facilitator:** Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and encourage the group to offer other Scripture passages that speak to them personally about the importance of "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Question: You might doubt that it really was God Himself who walked this earth for about 33 years as a man named Jesus. Many people do. Even the Apostle Thomas had his doubts. John anticipates this by offering an eyewitness account, "...we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." How does this eyewitness account differ from the eyewitness account of an accident or a crime? **Facilitator:** 1. John and the disciples observed Jesus intimately over an extended period of time. 2. John's observation doesn't focus on the physical appearance of Jesus, but his attributes, "full of grace and truth."

Question: In this passage we see "grace and truth" and "grace upon grace" brought to us through Jesus in contrast to the law given through Moses. What does the law offer us? What does grace and truth give us? **Facilitator:** Ask the group to cite Scripture passages in response to these questions. Here are two: Romans 5:20, Romans 6:14.

Question: Is your natural way of thinking about Jesus consistent with John's description in John 1:16-17 (full of grace and truth)? What are some areas of your life in which this truth about Jesus would bring encouragement? Where do you see a need for the grace and truth that Jesus brings to us?