



Home for Christmas

an Advent Series

Home for Christmas
Divine
John 1:1-18

During the holiday season, millions of people make plans to go home for Christmas, wherever their home may be. People travel from near and far to see their loved ones, hoping to enjoy time together after being apart. Putting aside all of their regular lives, people come together to celebrate.

During the first Christmas, Jesus the Son came to earth as a child, God in the flesh. Although he had always been with God, the time had come for him to fulfill the promises God had made of a Messiah, who would dwell with the people in order to save them.

- Where have you travelled to or had people travel from during the holidays?
- We come together during Christmas, but what's most important is that Jesus came to us. Why was it important that God fulfilled this promise of sending a Messiah?

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In order to understand, who the Word is, it's important to understand the purpose of John's Gospel as a whole.

Read John 20: 30-31

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** 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.

- According to this passage, why did John write his Gospel?
- How does this relate to John 1:1-3?

The Gospel of John is written so that people may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and so that by believing they would have life in his name. The book of John is first and foremost about Jesus and who he is.

- Keeping this in mind, who is the Word John refers to in John 1:1-3? What is the significance of John using "Word" to describe this individual?

We can know that John is speaking of Jesus not only because that's who his book is about but also through other context clues found throughout the Bible. For example, in other writings of John, he refers to Jesus as the Word (see Rev. 19:13)

- According to John 1:1-3 what do we learn about the Jesus? What is the significance of these elements?

From these few verses, John makes four things clear—(1) the Word was in the beginning of time, (2) that he was with God, (3) he was God, and (4) that all things were created through him. The Son has always been, even though he came down to earth and was born of Mary, God in the flesh. He is both fully human and fully God. Not only this, but everything that was made was made by him and through him.

Read John 1:4-9

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

- What does it mean that in the Word was life, and the life was the light of man?

- What is the significance of the light shining in the darkness without being overcome?
- What was John the Baptist's role?

Jesus is light and life. Jesus came to bring knowledge into the world and reveal God's plan of salvation. John was sent by God to bear witness about Jesus so that people would believe in him. Jesus was coming into the world with the power to illuminate the minds and hearts of the people, that they would see and know him as the one true God.

Read **John 1:10-13**

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- How does verse 10 relate to verse 3?
- What was Jesus' people's response to his coming?
- What did he give to those who did receive him? What does it mean to become a child of God?

Here again, we see that the world was made through Jesus. Despite this fact, the world didn't recognize him or know him. Even his own people did not receive him. Even so, his coming was not in vain, for some did receive him and believe in his name. These believers are given one of the highest privileges of all—to become children of God. Through Christ, they are adopted into the family of God and are born of him.

Lastly, read **John 1:14**

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The Word dwelt (i.e., pitched his tent) among us. What is this hearkening back to and what does it tell us about Jesus?
- What does John testify to seeing? What is the significance of this?

Jesus came to earth in the most humble way possible. He was born as a baby, in the likeness of humankind that he came to save. He dwelled among sinners, though no sin was found in him. He was seen in all of his glory, and he emulated grace and truth.

- How has what you've learned about Jesus from this passage shaped how you view the significance of the incarnation and of Christmas?
- Have you received Jesus and believed in his name? If so, how is this significant in your own life?
- Just as John bore witness about Jesus, how can we be his witnesses in the places we find ourselves in today?

Although Jesus came to earth as a baby, he, the Son, has always existed. He was with God in the beginning, and all things were made through him. Even though he was rejected by many, to those who believed in him, he made a way to be reconciled to God and to be adopted into his family. It all began at Christmas, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, but he did so much more than that. The Christmas story comes to its fullness at Easter when Jesus laid his perfect life down as a sacrifice to make a way for salvation for all of mankind.