



Leader Guide

The Beginning

January 9, 2022

Main Passage: John 1:1-4

Theological Theme

Jesus Christ is the Snake Crusher promised in Genesis 3. He is the Promised One proclaimed by Isaiah. He is fully man, but also fully God. Christ is the cornerstone. (See Colossians 1:16-17.)

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever been going about your day when you encountered someone who completely changed your plans, your day, or even your life?
- ❓ What happened in this significant encounter?

John 1:1-4 is the backdrop for the entire book. These first verses serve as a framework to help us correctly understand the person and work of Jesus Christ. John stated at the end of his account: “This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24). So, John’s purpose in writing was to serve as an eyewitness of Jesus Christ’s life and ministry. He desired to give a true testimony of the things that happened. This sentiment was echoed in his first letter when he wrote, “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us” (1 John 1:1-2).

1. Jesus Christ is Fully God and Fully Man (John 1:1-2)

By the time John wrote his Gospel (after 70 AD) word about Jesus of Nazareth had spread far and wide. Some people who had seen Jesus with their own eyes were still alive and sharing about what they had seen. One of the early deceptions that false teachers spread was that, although Christ was a mighty

preacher and miracle worker, He was not God. Many said He was a prophet sent by God, but He was a mere man. This strategy of Satan has been used since the resurrection of Christ and is even enshrined in major religions, such as Islam.

2. Jesus Christ Has All Authority (John 1:3)

Jesus Christ was with God in the beginning, and He was God. Jesus Christ is fully God. It naturally follows that Jesus Christ has authority over His creation. John expressed this idea by explaining that “All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created” (John 1:3). If all things were created through Christ and for Christ, then of course He has authority over creation and the creation must submit to His power.

3. Jesus Christ is Man’s Greatest Need (John 1:4)

After establishing Jesus’s divinity and authority, John then summarized Christ’s relation to mankind. He said that Jesus Christ “was the light of men.” This means that without Christ, humankind sat in darkness. Christianity is built upon the person and work of Jesus Christ. Christians believe Jesus Christ is God in flesh, eternal, immortal, almighty. They also believe Christ’s work on the cross is the only hope poor sinners have for pardon and life.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?

- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?

- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?

- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)

- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?