

### Scripture Text

John 1:14-18

### Context

The first eighteen verses of form a prologue to the rest of John's Gospel. The principal theme in these verses is the incarnation – God revealing the fullness of his character in the person Jesus Christ and saving sinners through him. John the author lived with Jesus Christ during his public ministry and witnessed Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

### Observation and Meaning

- Who is the Word and what did the Word do? v14
- What did the author John see from the Word? v14
- What does John the Baptist mean by "He who comes after me ranks before me"? v15
- What have we received from his fullness, and why is the revelation of Jesus Christ a greater grace than having the law from Moses? v16-7.
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to take on flesh in order for us to receive this? V14
- How can we know God if we have never seen him? v18

### Big Idea

Every human is born with a sense of inner angst, an unresolved internal desire to be seen, valued, and praised. This search is a search for glory, and any attempt to find it outside of the true God of glory will prove to be futile. But this God of glory has taken on flesh, and come to us, to reveal it to us, and show us how we might live with true glory.

### Connecting to Bible Storyline

God entered into human history as Jesus Christ to display the fullness of his glory and to provide a way of salvation from God's wrath on sinners. Jesus Christ is the Messiah prophesied by the Old Testament prophets and encapsulates the fullness of God's grace and truth. God has made this savior known and all who believe in him will be saved and become children of God.

### Sermon Outline

1. Christmas is about seeing God's glory (v14-15)
2. Christmas is about receiving God's grace (16-17)
3. Christmas is about God making himself known (v18)

### Applications

- How does knowing God's glory in Jesus Christ make my understanding of God clearer?
- How has my life changed after knowing Jesus Christ? How does Jesus resolve the inner desire I have for glory?
- How does the glory that comes through Jesus practically help me to stop pursuing glory in the wrong things? In what particular areas of my own life do I need to apply this?
- What keeps me from sharing this good news of Jesus Christ to those who don't know Christ?
- How can I work with other believers to make Jesus Christ known to them?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?  
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?  
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?  
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.