



Sermon Discussion Guide

November 30th, 2025 | John 1:1-5 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // Transformed : Christmas @ Willow Creek

Summary

This week's sermon kicked off our Advent series. Pastor Greg began with John 1:1-5 in order to show us that Jesus existed before creation, active in creation, and present after creation. John begins the Christmas story long before Bethlehem. He starts before creation, showing that Jesus is eternal. By calling Jesus the Logos, John communicates to both Jews and Gentiles that Jesus is the divine source of all truth, reason, and creation. Jesus' existence before creation shows that He knows everything about the world and about us, which gives us real hope. Jesus was not only before creation, he was also active in creation. Everything was made through him, demonstrating his power. For us to have hope, we need someone who is full of knowledge and full of power. John says Jesus has both which means that he knows what is happening in our lives and he has the power to step in the midst of it and bring comfort. After creation, Jesus continues to work as the light in our darkness. He brings life, clarity, and hope into a dark world. The darkness cannot overcome Him. Our hope this Advent rests in the One who knows all things, has power over all things, and shines light into all things.

Discussion Questions:

Before Creation

- Why do you think John starts the Christmas story before creation rather than in Bethlehem?
- What difference does it make that Jesus "knows" everything about the world and about our situation?
- During this Christmas season, what areas of your life feel like they need the comfort of someone who truly understands?

At Creation

- How does Jesus' power at creation shape your understanding of His power in your life today?
- Why do we often trust Jesus' knowledge but doubt His power (or the reverse)?
- Where do you personally need to experience Jesus' creative, life-giving power this season?

After Creation

- Where do you see “darkness” in the world or in your own life?
- How does Jesus bring hope to you personally right now?
- How can we reflect His light to others during Advent?

Conclusion

- How does this message encourage you this Advent season (especially if this is/has been a difficult)?

Take some time to reflect on Jesus’ attributes highlighted during this message. Wrap up your time in prayer, that these truths would take hold in our hearts and give us hope in the midst of hardship this Christmas season.