



Week 1

Growth Group Opener:

The opening line to the Bible is iconic, well known by many, even those who don't profess a faith in it. So if your life had an opening line like in a movie or book, what would it be?

Read Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-5

Who is John speaking of in the beginning of chapter 1?

From these two passages, who can we gather was present at creation?

When we look at who was present, what do we see each one doing?

When we read of the state of the world in Genesis 1:2, what can we learn about the conditions God can create in?

Pay attention to the analogies of light and darkness in both Genesis 1 (look ahead at v.3-4 as well) and John 1...why do these comparisons matter?

Picture the world as it was described...formless and empty, filled with darkness.

If we compare that with Genesis 1:1 and the end of 1:2, as well as with John 1:1-5, how would our perception be different from reality?

How can that give us hope in our world today?

John 1:4 includes you personally. What needs to shift in your self-perception, or perhaps in the way you are living out your faith, in order to allow that life and light to shine through more clearly?

Is there something in your life where you see only darkness and need the light of Christ to shine in? Or somewhere in your life where you need God's creative power to generate something that is not yet there?

What do we learn about God in these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for being the very life that animates us. Thank you that you have already overcome the darkness both in the world, and in each one of us. Lord, help us to walk in the light of your love every day so that others may see you more clearly in us. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Challenge: Read John 1:1-5 every day this week and do your best to memorize it.