



## Read John 1:1-3; 18

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

*<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

## Background

Today we start a four-week journey through the first chapter of the Gospel of John as we launch a new series entitled, "Unwrapping Christmas." We all know and love the story of Jesus' birth as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. A star. A manger. Shepherds and angels. In the opening few verses of his Gospel, John wants to introduce us to Jesus as well, but not in the same way. Instead of a baby in Bethlehem, John takes his audience back to the very beginning... of everything. Today, Pastor David will help us marvel again at Jesus, who is God's ultimate divine 'message' as the eternal Word!

## Service Notes

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*What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?*

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Instructions

*This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.*

### Getting Started

- ▼ What was the biggest take away from the message this week? In what ways did you experience God at work in your life this week? How can we pray for you?

### Talk it Over

- ▼ Our belief that there is One God who exists eternally and equally in three ‘persons’ (Father, Son, Spirit) is certainly mysterious, but extremely important for our faith. Why is it necessary to believe that Jesus is both fully God and fully human? What other stories or passages can help us share this truth with confidence with others?
- ▼ **Read John 5:15-24.** What sparked the outrage against Jesus? In what ways does Jesus ‘reveal’ the Father in these verses? How does Jesus demonstrate his own divinity (or equality with the Father) in this passage? What ‘authority’ does Jesus have according to this passage? Why would Jesus’ statements be so shocking to his audience? How should we respond to hearing Jesus’ words? In John’s gospel alone, where else do we see Jesus showing us how he is eternal and equal with God and revealing the Father to us? (For example: John 5:46-59; 10:22-30; 12:44-50; 14:8-14).
- ▼ **Read Hebrews 1:1-4 and Colossians 1:15-20.** How does the author describe Jesus in these verses? How do these descriptions compare or support John’s claims in John 1:1-3? What stands out the most in these passages? What is Jesus doing and what has Jesus done in these passages? How should these passages give us hope for today?

### Live it Out

- ▼ Since Jesus is the eternal Word who created all things and holds all things together, what should our daily response be to Him? How does reflecting on Jesus in this way encourage you right now? Who else in your life needs to hear about this hope right now? What is one practical way this Christmas season you can show the grace, mercy, and love of God to someone in your everyday life?

