



## *Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 2*

Preacher: Sandy Mason

Text: John 1:6-18

### Introduction:

John's gospel opens with a description of John the Baptist – the one who came (in fulfillment of Old Testament promises) to point ahead to the One who was to come; the Light, the Lord Jesus Christ. The true Light came into the world, says John, and although many rejected him, the glorious new birth that comes to those who receive him is life-changing and completely transformational. And as the light came and dwelt among us (as a man), God's grace was fully and finally revealed in all its glory!

### Discussion:

1. We see that the Gospel is about *grace*. How do you define "grace"? How does the Bible define it? Is your definition different than the Scripture's? How does a proper understanding of God's grace keep us from treating it lightly or dismissively?
2. What is significant about the description of Jesus as "the Light"? It's a powerful biblical metaphor – how does it help us understand Jesus' person and work? (Think about the light in especially in terms of uncovering sin and revealing purpose...)
3. Verse 9 says that the "true light" – that's Jesus – gives light to everyone. And yet in verses 10 and 11 we see that this light is rejected by the world and by God's own people. How is it possible for the true light to be seen so clearly and yet rejected all the same? How do you see this paradox in the world around you?

4. What happens when someone believes in the name of Jesus (according to vv. 12-13)? What makes this 'belief' different from mere mental acknowledgement or assent? What are the implications of this new birth? How are true "children of God" different from those who reject him?
  
5. How can we see Jesus "accommodating" our sinful and fallen nature in his incarnation? In other words, how does the incarnation, the 'Word became flesh,' reveal the grace of God in a way that had previously been concealed?
  
6. John contrasts the Law (which was given through Moses) with grace and truth which came through Jesus (v 17). How are Law and grace different? How are they similar? Why does John place so much emphasis on this dual revelation?
  
7. Application: "Believing" and "receiving" are intrinsically connected in this passage. How can we be sure that our own belief extends beyond mere assent into a true 'receiving' of the light?
  
8. Application: This text makes much of the revelation of the Light – the understanding of the 'grace upon grace' lavished on those who will receive it. This week, how can we intentionally live in this light, more fully recognizing and actively receiving the grace that our God pours out on us?