
John: The Light in Our Darkness

“True God”

John 1:1-3

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“The first thing that hit me when I started reading through the Gospels was the thought that Jesus had come to earth in the first place. ... To exchange heaven for a place, and to exchange eternity for time, was an act of humility I don’t think any of us can understand.”

- Donald Miller, *Searching for God Knows What*

“If we are to be named as who we really are, then it will have to come from the outside. A loving community can help do this—but even a loving community has its limits. Ultimately, in order for you to matter, in order for you to bear meaning—you will have to be Named in the same way you were called into existence. You will have to be Named by God—the kind and wise knower of your soul.”

- Roger Edwards, “Your Name Matters”

“How do you reconcile your love for someone with the revelation that they have behaved badly?”

- Savannah Guthrie, *The Today Show*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- Ethan said that Advent is a time where we look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus—God giving us the gift of *himself* once again. What are some of the best gifts you have received (not necessarily at Christmastime)? Who gave them to you? Why were they special?
- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passage and why it strikes them.
- Do any of the quotes above provoke thoughts for discussion?
- John says that not only is Jesus the Word of God, but he *is* God. What is at stake in believing that Jesus is God? What would we lose from life if he wasn’t?
- The Gospel of John was written that so we might *believe* in Jesus. What do you do when doubts creep in? What do those doubts say? How does John address our doubts in these three short verses?
- Advent is a season of hope and longing. What are some things you long for this season? What are some things you long for in your life? Do you have a hard time dreaming about what you desire from life? Why or why not?