

JOHN 1-14

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 27: Jn 1-14
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read John 1:1-18. Who is the "Word", and what does vv. 1-2 tell us about him? Why do you think John used the metaphor "Word" for the Son of God?

List and explain two passages elsewhere that teach about the divine nature of Jesus.

Find other passages in the Bible that show that the Son is a separate individual from the Father (ie the Father and the Son are two distinct beings). How might you make sense of this in light of the Christian belief that there is only one God?

According to v. 3, what did the Word create? List other passages that speak of Jesus having creative ability.

What 2 characteristics did the Word have according to vv. 4-5? Who created life? Who created light? What could "life" and "light" mean in these verses?

Who bore witness in vv. 6-8? Note the use of words like 'witness', 'testimony' in the Gospel of John. What does this tell you about the purpose of John's Gospel (20:30-31)?

Why did John give his testimony? See v. 7.

How was the world's reaction to the "light" (vv. 9-10)? Why was this improper?

How did “his own” treat him (v. 11)? Who were “his own”? Why was their response improper?

What gift did he give to those who believe on him (v. 12)?

What additional information does v. 13 give about being born to become a child of God? Give other passages showing how people become children of God.

What does “the Word become flesh” mean (v. 14)? What took place when Christ was born? What was the purpose of the Word becoming flesh?

Before Christ was born, people could only know God partially. How did God communicate in the Old Testament? Did anyone ever see God before Christ came? Why is it possible to know God fully after Christ came (v. 18)? How can you know God today? What is eternal life (17:3)?

What does it mean to say that the Word is the “One and Only” (v. 14; 18)? What does this emphasize about Jesus, his relationship with the Father and his ministry?

What did God give through Moses (v. 17)? What does it mean to say that

(a) Christ is “full of grace and truth” (v. 14);

(b) “grace and truth” came through Christ (v. 18)?

Rather than coming through cold stone tablets, God’s revelation (“truth”) now comes through a person’s life.

What common errors that people make about Jesus can be addressed by John 1:1-18? In light of John 1:1-18, how does the author want us to view the words and deeds of Jesus? Summarize John’s Christology in a sentence based on the prologue of the gospel. How does this affect you in your daily life?

2. Read Jn. 1:19-34. Who are the priests and Levites (v. 19)? Why did these leaders come to see John the Baptist (vv. 19; 22)?

In their minds, what were the possible options regarding John's identity (vv. 20-21)? Are there any other possible options?

What did John say about himself (v. 23)? Why had John come?

How did John prepare the way for the Lord? See vv. 24-34.

What did John say about Jesus in v. 29? See Isa. 53:7; 1 Cor 5:7. What could "the sin of the world" mean?

What sign had been given to John to show that Jesus had been sent by God as the Messiah (v. 33)? When did this take place?

Compare and contrast John's baptism and Jesus' baptism (vv. 32-34). Why do think Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit (1:12)? What does it mean for Jesus to be "the Son of God" (v. 34)?

Have you been baptized by the Holy Spirit? How can you be sure? How does this baptism affect you in your daily life?

3. Read Jn. 3:1-18. Who came to see Jesus at night (v. 3)? What do you know about this man (v. 1)? Why do you think he chose to visit Jesus at night? Do you think there is any symbolism involved (1:5)?

How did he address Jesus (v. 2)? What he think of Jesus?

What revolutionary concept of the kingdom of God did Jesus reveal to the man in v. 3? What are the entrance requirements to the kingdom? Is the kingdom a national or ethnic concept? If not what is it?

Did Nicodemus understand what Jesus said (v. 4)? Why or why not? What did Nicodemus understand or misunderstand?

How did Jesus answer him to help the man overcome his misunderstanding (vv. 5-6)? What did Jesus mean by being born of water and Spirit? See Ezek 36:25-26. Would Nicodemus be familiar with God's promise in this Old Testament passage?

What point was Jesus making in vv. 7-8? Can one control the wind? Can one control one's physical birth? Can one control one's spiritual birth? Who is the source of spiritual birth?

Did Nicodemus understand Jesus' second explanation of the concept of spiritual birth (v.9)?

Why do you think Nicodemus was not able to receive from Jesus (v. 10-11)? What blockages could there have been (vv. 2; 12-14)?

What hinders you from receiving from the Lord? What hinders you from receiving from the Word of God? Do you think there "earthly things" and "heavenly things" that the Lord wants to personally show you? How often do you receive from the Lord? Is there anything you can do so that you are better equipped to receive from God?

4. Read Jn. 6:22-40. Why did Jesus criticize the people who followed him (v. 26)? Does not Jesus want people to follow him?

Do you think you are following Jesus? How do you know? Why are you following Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the people in v. 27? What did Jesus mean (v. 29)? Is God satisfied in the work that we do or from whom we believe? What is the crucial step to the gift of eternal life from God?

Did the people believe Jesus (vv. 30-31)? How did Jesus response to their request for a sign (v. 32)?

What gave Jesus the opportunity to announce that he is the bread of life (v. 35)? Compare Jesus' claim with the manna that God gave to the Israelites in the desert. Why do people eat bread? What does Jesus offer as "the bread of life"?

Why did the people not believe Jesus and receive his teachings (vv. 37-40)?

Did Jesus come to satisfy human desires? Or was Jesus' purpose to do the will of God (v. 38)?

What is your purpose in life?

Can we lose our salvation if we do not want to walk away from Jesus (v. 39)? What kind of life does Jesus offer those who believe in him (v. 40)? How would you respond to Jesus' offer?

5. Read Jn. 9:1-41. What did the disciples ask Jesus when they saw a blind man (vv. 1-2)?

How did Jesus reply (vv. 3-5)? A common belief was that calamity was the result of sin. How did Jesus use the man's suffering to teach the disciples about the work of God? Why do you think Jesus says in v.5 that he is the "light of the world"? What do you think Jesus intended to do for the man?

What did Jesus do to the man in v. 6, and what instructions did he give the man after that (v. 7)? Did the man obey? What was the outcome?

What were his neighbors' responses (vv. 8-10)? How did the man respond to their queries?

Describe the investigations conducted by the Pharisees when the man was brought to them (vv. 13-34). Was there sufficient evidence to prove that the man's sight was restored? Why were the Pharisees still skeptical? What did the man confess about Jesus before the Pharisees?

What conclusions did the Pharisees make about Jesus and the man?

How was the man's new faith tested by the authorities (v. 34)?

When Jesus found the man after he had been thrown out by the authorities, how did Jesus lead him into more authentic faith (vv. 35-

38)? What did the man think of Jesus in v. 17? How did the man view Jesus in v. 38? The moral of the story: If you want to know more about Jesus, keep on walking with him.

What did Jesus, "the light of the world", do for the blind man? Did the man gain physical sight? Did the man gain spiritual sight? Did Jesus accomplish God's purpose in this man's life beyond the expectation of the disciples (v. 3)? The appropriate response of the man: "he worshiped him" (v. 38).

6. Read Jn. 12: 20-36. How did Jesus explain why he must die in vv. 23-24? What picture did Jesus use? What about those who follow Jesus? What is expected of such (vv. 25-26)? What is Jesus' point in v. 25? How are Jesus' disciples to live their lives in this world according to v. 25? Living for self? Or releasing control of our lives and transferring control to Christ? What is the results of each choice?

Many Jews believed that Jesus only came for them. But what does John and Jesus have to say about this (vv. 20-22; 26)? Are there social or racial barriers to the gospel? Is the Good News for all people?

What are your plans for the Good News? How will you start?

7. Read Jn. 14:1-14. How can we know the way to God? What does Jesus mean in v. 6? How is Jesus the Way? How is Jesus the Truth? How is Jesus the Life? How can one know God the Father?

Where does the search for God, truth and reality end (vv. 9-11)?

In vv. 12-13, is Jesus saying that his disciples will do more amazing miracles than he did? What do you think Jesus meant (Mk 16:15)?

When Jesus says we can ask him for anything, we must remember that our asking must be in his name. What is the significance of asking in Jesus' name? Does it mean that God will grant all our requests as long as we end our prayers with a "In Jesus' name"? What does it mean then (1 Jn. 5:14-15)?

8. Read Jn. 14:15-31)? was going to leave his disciples, but he would remain with them (bv. 18). How could this be (vv. 15-16)? What does Jesus mean by "another Counsellor"?

Summarize some truths about the Holy Spirit found in the Gospel of John:

14:16:

14:17:

14:26; 15:26:

16:8:

16:13:

16:14:

How do Jesus' disciples show their love for him (vv. 15, 23)? How do they demonstrate their love?

What commandments has Jesus given his disciples that they should follow (13:34-35; Matt. 22:34-40)?

If someone were to look at your life, would they conclude that you love Jesus by the way you keep his commandments?

What will happen when we love Jesus?

v. 16:

v. 21:

v. 23:

JULY YEAR 1

What can you do to help others to love and follow Jesus so they will have the promise of the Holy Spirit to help them live their life?

JOHN 15-21; ISAIAH 1-5

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 28: Jn 15-21; Isa 1-5
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Jn. 15:1-17. Who is the vine, and who is the gardener? What does the gardener do? What do the branches represent? What do the fruitful branches represent? What do the unfruitful branches represent?

Why are fruitful branches pruned (vv. 2-3)? Why must God sometimes discipline us?

How can someone be fruitful (v. 4)? What is involved in remaining in Christ (vv. 7; 9; 12; 17)?

What happens when we bear much fruit (v. 8)?

Branches that don't bear fruit are cut off at the trunk because not only are they worthless, but they often infect the rest of the tree. What happens to people who won't bear fruit for God cut off from?

Are you receiving nourishment and life offered by Christ, the vine? What can you do to bear even more fruit for God?

2. Read John 17:1-26. What has God given Jesus (vv. 1-5)? What authority has God given Jesus to give to all people? Does Jesus have authority over you?

How does Jesus define eternal life in v. 3? Is this definition different from what you have been taught? When can you experience eternal life?

What is involved in knowing God (v. 3)? What is the difference between knowing God and knowing about him?

Where was Jesus before he came to the earth (v. 5)? What was Jesus; deepest longing? What was Jesus asking the Father to do for him in v. 5? What is your deepest longing?

What kept Jesus from being fully united with the Father (vv. 6-8)?

Is Jesus praying for everyone in the world (vv. 6-11)? Who is he praying for? Who had chosen the disciples of Jesus? Why did Jesus pray for the Father's protection on his disciples? What does it mean to be "one" in v. 11?

Is Jesus saying in v. 12 that he lost someone that he was suppose to keep? What did he mean then?

What distinctions does Jesus make in vv. 14-16? Does Jesus want his disciples to isolate themselves from the world? How does God protect them from the evil one?

How do the disciples keep themselves purified from the world (v. 17)? How important is the truth to you? What place have you given the Holy Scriptures I your life? In what way do you intentionally engage the Word of God? What improvements can you make?

What is Jesus' mission in the world (v. 18)? What is the mission of the disciples? What guarantees the success of the disciples' mission (vv. 11; 15-18)?

For whom is Jesus praying in vv. 20-26? What are the 2 things he prays for future believers? How close is Jesus' relationship with the Father? What is Jesus' desired relationship with believers? What does Jesus desire for relationships among believers? On what basis is unity among believers based on (vv. 21-23)? To what does unity powerfully witness (v. 23)?

Why do you think there are so many factions within Christianity today? Are you helping to unify the body of Christ, the church? What are some things you can do? What are some things your cell group can do?

3. Read Jn. 21:1-19. Why do you think Jesus went back to the Sea of Galilee to fish (v. 3)? Have you ever been disillusioned and gone back to your comfort zone?

Describe how Jesus revealed himself to Peter and the other disciples with him in vv. 4-14. When did Peter recognize the Lord (v. 7)? What might have led Peter to recognize Jesus (Lk. 5:1-11)? When did the disciples recognize the Lord (v. 12)?

In the beach scene of vv. 15-17, what did Jesus do for Peter? Why did Jesus ask Peter 3 times if he loved him? What was Jesus' purpose in doing this? What did Jesus want Peter to face when he confronted him? Would Jesus settle for quick, superficial answers?

When Peter answered yes, what did Jesus tell him to do (v. 17)? What do you think Jesus meant? Who are Jesus' sheep? Do you think harboring past failures can hinder your future with the Lord?

Do you remember an occasion when you completely failed the Lord. Take time to revisit that time and bring it before God to be restored.

4. Read Isaiah chapter 1. When was Isaiah a prophet of God (v. 1)? Did Isaiah speak words directly quoted from God (v.2)? Does "Israel" in v. 3 refer to the Northern or Southern Kingdom (v. 1)? What was the spiritual condition of the Israelites (v. 3)? What comparison did God make to drive home his point (v. 3)? How did God describe their relationship with him in v. 4?

What are the consequences of Judah's sin (vv. 6-8)? Why wasn't Judah wiped out at this time (v. 9)? What do you learn about God from this?

What comparison is made in v. 10? Why was God unhappy with their sacrifices and prayers (vv. 11-16)? What does God urge his people to do (vv. 16-17)?

Would God reason it out with his people who have trouble understanding his ways (vv. 18-19)? What does this show you about God?

How does God propose to deal with a godly nation turned ungodly (v. 25)? What does God want for Jerusalem (v. 26)?

God's people were worshipping "sacred oaks" (v. 29). Do you have interests and commitments where your love for them borders on worship? How can you make God your first loyalty?

5. Read Isaiah chapter 2. What did God show Isaiah about Jerusalem's future (vv. 1-6)? Why will Jerusalem become a godly city with a wonderful future of peace again (v. 2)? What kind of "day" is described in v. 12? Why does God need to bring his people down low (vv. 11; 17)? Whom should they trust instead of people (v. 22)?
6. Read Isaiah chapter 4. What is God's goal for Jerusalem (v. 4)? What does God use to cleanse his people? Holiness comes from a sincere desire to obey God and from wholehearted devotion to him. In what ways can you set yourself apart for God?
7. Read Isaiah chapter 7. Did God's chosen nation bear fruit (v. 2)? What kind of fruit? (vv. 2; 4)? What are the 6 sins condemned by God in vv. 8-25:
 - 1) 5:8-10: exploiting others
 - 2) 5:11-12:
 - 3) 5:18-19: taking sarcastic pride in sin
 - 4) 5:20:
 - 5) 5:21: being conceited
 - 6) 5:22-24:

JULY YEAR 1

How can we avoid the error of Israel by breaking down the distinction between right and wrong (v.20)? How high a priority do you give Bible study in your life? Is there room for improvement?

ISAIAH 6-14

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 29: Isa 6-14
 - b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.
1. Read Isaiah chapter 6. What was the purpose of Isaiah's vision (v. 8)? What did the throne, the attending angels and the three-fold "holy, holy, holy" emphasize about God (vv. 1-3)? How did Isaiah respond to this spectacular vision (v. 5)? How did God enable Isaiah to survive (vv. 6-7)? Was Isaiah given a difficult mission (vv. 9-13)? What message was Isaiah to bring to God's people? Would the people listen? What would happen to the land of Judah? When will we listen to God? Consider what God may be telling you, and obey him before time runs out.
 2. Read Isaiah chapters 7 and 8. Because of Israel's alliance with Aram (7: 2), Israel would be destroyed. Who would God use to destroy them (7: 17)? Did Judah, however, make the right decision by hiring Assyria to save it (7:20; 2 Kgs 16:7-8)? How would Assyria treat Judah (7: 20-25; 8:6-8)? Did Judah make the right decision in seeking help from other nations rather than trusting God's kindness (8:6-8)? Who was the one who used Assyria to discipline and punish Judah for making such a bad choice (8:7)? What attributes of God are seen here in his dealings with Judah? Why did the Israelites consider Isaiah a traitor (8:11-15)? Can we fear God and man at the same time (8:13)?
 3. Read Isaiah chapter 9. In a time of great darkness, God promised to send a "great light" who would shine on everyone living in the "shadow of death" (v. 2). In Jn. 8:12, what did Jesus refer to himself? This message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ and the

establishment of his eternal kingdom. Isaiah used 4 names to describe the Messiah. What are they (v. 6)?

4. Read Isaiah chapter 10. Although Assyria did not know that it was part of God's plan, God used this nation to judge his people. Assyria, in turn, would be judged by God. What sin of Assyria is highlighted in v. 12? How did the Assyrians think they had accomplished everything? Do you think anyone ever escapes from God's judgment against sin, including powerful nations (Ps. 2)?
5. Read Isaiah 10:20-11:16. Isaiah predicted that despite the horrible invasion by Assyria, there would a remnant left. What is the key to being part of the remnant (10:20)? After God allows Assyria to invade Judah (10:28-34), Assyria would be cut down never to rise (10:17-19). Although is reduced to a stump (11:1), what would grow from that stump (11:1)? Who fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 11 (see Matt 3:16)? What will characterize Christ's reign over the earth (11:6-10)?

ISAIAH 15-27

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 30: Isa. 15-27
 - b. The following discussion questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.
1. Read Isaiah 19. Egypt, the nation where God's people were enslaved for 400 years (Exod. 1), was hated by the people of Israel. Here in chapter 19, Isaiah records an amazing prophecy. What would Egypt do after it is chastened by the Lord (v. 19; 23)? When will this take place (v. 19)? What do you think "in that day" means? When Egypt calls to God for help, what will God do for Egypt (v. 20)? What are the other Gentile nations that will bow before the Lord (v. 22)? In Christ, people and nations that are poles apart politically will bow at his feet as brothers and sisters.
 2. Read Isaiah chapter 20. What did God command Isaiah to do in v. 2? Do you think this was a humiliating experience for Isaiah? How did this function as a prophetic sign (1) about what will happen to Egypt and Cush (v. 3); (2) to Judah not to trust in Egypt and Cush (vv. 5-6)? When
 3. Read Isaiah chapter 22. Where is the "Valley of Vision" (v. 9)? What did God show Isaiah concerning the city of Jerusalem (vv. 1-4)? Why was their preparation for war (vv. 8-11) pointless (v. 11)? Attacked on every side, what did the people of Jerusalem choose to do (vv. 12-13)? What should they have done instead (v. 12)? What was Judah's root problem? When you face difficulties, turn to God.
 4. Read Isaiah chapter 24. Who would the people suffer (v. 5)? What were the sins of the people? What else suffered the effects of human sin (vv. 4-5)? Do those who are faithful also suffer because sin is rampant in society? How can we slow down the deterioration of society? Do you think we can make a difference? What will the

believers who are left behind after God judges Judah do (vv. 14-15)? What can we do when we become depressed by the evil around us? What are "the powers in the heavens above" (v. 21)? Can anyone escape due punishment?

5. Read Isaiah chapter 25. Why does Isaiah praise God (v. 1)? Think of the prayers he has answered and praise him for his goodness and faithfulness. Why do the poor suffer and who can they turn to for comfort and help (v. 4; Lk. 6:20)? For whom is God preparing a feast (v. 6)? Is it only for the Jews? During the feast, what will God end (v. 8)? What is the connection between God's plans and God's word (v. 8)? How is part of v. 8 used in 1 Cor. 15:54? How is part of v. 8 quoted in Rev. 21:4? When do you think the prophecy in vv. 6-8 will be fulfilled? What will happen to those who oppose God (Moab) (vv. 10-12)?
6. Read Isaiah chapter 26. How can we have peace even in turmoil (v. 3)? How is the path of the righteous "level" (vv. 7-8)? What kind of people do not learn to do what is right even they receive God's benefits (v. 10)? What did some of the Jews do when God disciplined them (v. 18)? No matter how difficult times may be, we have hope when we keep our trust in God. Can you wait patiently for God?

ISAIAH 28-36

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 31: Isa. 28-36
 - b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.
1. Read Isaiah 28. How did the people react to Isaiah (vv. 9-10)? For this attitude, how did God propose to teach them (vv. 10-15)? Instead of trusting God, Judah made a covenant with death (v. 15). What does this mean (see 2 Kgs. 19:9; Isa. 37:9)? To whom should we turn if you want lasting protection? If you are building anything, you need a firm base. Isaiah speaks of a foundation stone, a cornerstone, that will be laid in Zion. Who do you think is this cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:8)? What would be the proper reaction of the people to Isaiah's message (vv. 22-23)?
 2. Read Isaiah 29. Ariel is a special name for Jerusalem. It may mean "lion of God" or "altar hearth" (Jerusalem is the place of the altar in the temple). What claim did the people make about their relationship with God (vv. 13-14)? How would describe their religion in reality? How did Jesus use vv. 13-14 when he spoke to the Pharisees (Matt. 15:7-9; Mk. 7:6-7)? What did the people think and do according to v. 15? Would you be embarrassed if your best friends knew your thoughts? Remember that God knows all your thoughts. What would the world be like under Christ's rule? Have you allowed Christ to rule in your life? How so?
 3. Read Isaiah chapter 30. Why did the Lord call his people "obstinate children" (vv. 1-2)? How can you avoid committing the same error? What is the historical context for v. 2 (see 2 Kgs. 18:21)? Why were bribes being sent to Egypt (v. 6)? How did the Lord regard the Israelites in v. 9? Why did he have a low opinion of them (vv. 10-11)? How receptive are you to the Lord's corrections? Would you settle

for something that is comfortable but is not true? Who is the only one who can save Judah (v. 15)? Although the Lord gave his people the "bread of adversity" and the "water of affliction," what did he promise he would do for them during hard times? How was God gracious to his people even when they left his path (v. 21)? What should we do when we hear his voice of correction?

4. Read Isaiah chapter 35. What picture is given by God through the prophet in this chapter? What are the outstanding characteristics of this kingdom? Where does the "Way of Holiness" lead to (v. 10)? Who are permitted to journey on God's highway (v. 9)? What happens on this highway? How does chapter 35 compare with chapters 1-34? What does God offer to his people even though he has threatened to judge them? What do you learn about God from this?
5. Read Isaiah chapter 36. Chap. 19 describes Isaiah's prophecy of judgment on Egypt, while chaps. 30-31 pronounce woe on Judah for allying with Egypt against Assyria. In vv. 4-8, how was Sennacherib taunting Judah for trusting Egypt? King Hezekiah had put great trust in Pharaoh's promise to help Israel against the Assyrians. When choosing between God's word and someone else's, whose will you choose? People don't necessarily need to be sinful to be ineffective for God; they need only to be confused about what God wants. How can you avoid Satan's deceit?

