

Come and See – John 1:1–18 - Sermon Summary

John 1:1–18 opens with some of the most profound words ever written: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” These verses, often called John’s *Prologue*, are both poetic and theological, introducing the major themes of John’s Gospel — Jesus as the eternal Word, the Light and Life of the world, God’s grace and truth revealed in Jesus, and the invitation to become children of God.

Though familiar to many, these words should still astonish us. John invites us to awaken our wonder again. Studying John is more than reading history — it is responding to a divine invitation to see who Jesus is, what God is like, and how humanity may find salvation in Him.

“In the Beginning”

Unlike the other Gospels, John begins not with Jesus’ birth, but with creation itself. By echoing Genesis 1, John places Jesus at the centre of the cosmos — the eternal Word through whom all things were made. This beginning reminds us that before anything else existed, *Jesus was*.

John’s cosmic introduction also addresses a cultural divide. Today’s world assumes a self-centred worldview — focused on personal rights, truths, and worth — and often finds Christianity’s exclusivity offensive. But John starts where our modern thinking does not: with God. He writes to show that the universe is not about us, but about the God who created and sustains it, and who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

When sharing faith, we cannot assume people understand words like *sin* or *salvation*. We must begin, as John does, with the whole story — who God is, who we are, and what went wrong — before proclaiming what Jesus has done. Evangelism, then, is an invitation to “come and see,” to explore the person and work of Christ through the Gospel narrative.

Jesus Is Great

John proclaims Jesus’ greatness by identifying Him as God. Jesus is distinct from the Father, yet fully divine and eternal.

Too often, our vision of Jesus is too small, leading to shallow faith. Spiritual growth requires an ever-expanding view of Christ’s majesty. John, writing late in life, presents a vast and exalted Christ — the same glorious figure he saw in Revelation. To grow spiritually is to magnify Jesus — to make Him greater in our hearts and minds.

Jesus Is Good

Yet God’s greatness is matched by His goodness. Through Him, broken humanity is offered new birth — the right to become children of God. The incarnation reveals not only God’s power but His astonishing love.

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Finally, John introduces the tension that runs throughout his Gospel — the conflict between light and darkness. The *world* (Greek *kosmos*) in John does not mean the physical creation, but the human order in rebellion against God. The wonder of the gospel is that God so loved this broken, hostile world that He sent His Son to save it (John 3:16).

But the world often rejects the light. Jesus came to His own people, and they did not receive Him. John makes clear that sin and unbelief are not confined to the irreligious; even the devout need redemption. The scandal of the gospel is not that God sends people to hell, but that He allows any sinner into heaven at all.

John’s invitation, both to the seeker and the lifelong believer, remains the same: *Come and see*.

John 1:1-18 - Come and See - Discussion Questions

1. *Read John 1:1-18 out loud (or if you are in a group, listen as one person reads out loud).*
 - a. *What words or phrases stood out to you?*
 - b. *What questions did you have as you read or heard these words?*
2. *Rob contrasted the world view presented in this passage with the worldview most people in our society have. How do most people think about ultimate reality? For example:*
 - *'who am I, where did everything come from, what's wrong with the world (and how can it be fixed), what happens when we die?*
3. *How does this scripture (and all of scripture) define reality?*
4. *Rob suggested maybe not immediately trying to summarize the plan of salvation on a napkin with non-Christian friends, but instead to ask questions, and aim for a more holistic understanding of their world view, and the biblical world view. Agree? Disagree? Why?*
5. *Rob summarized who God is, and who Jesus is, as "God is great, God is good," and said when we need to "magnify" Jesus. What difference do you think a bigger view of Jesus might make in our lives?*
6. *How can we gain a deeper, fuller, and bigger picture of who Jesus is?*

Additional Resources:

- *Pastors Ryan and Rob recorded a short "Going Deeper" (or "Needing out on things pastors like to talk about") available on the GBC website*
- *"Bible Project" video summary of John 1, at <https://bibleproject.com/videos/john-1/>*

Make sure you read John 2 in preparation for the next sermon and study.