

# Children, Glory, and Grace

Pastors Jeff Bucknam, Jeff Thompson, Brit Gilman, John Nichols | John 1:12-18

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

## Ice Breaker

What was something good that happened this week?

If you could be born in another time, another place — where would that be? Why?

## Understanding The Text In Context

John 1:12–18 comes at the end of the introduction to John’s Gospel. Why might John begin his whole book by explaining who Jesus is before writing about what Jesus did?

John borrows imagery of the tabernacle in the Old Testament, where God would meet with and lead His people (see Exodus 40:34-38). John writes that the Word (Jesus) “dwelt [‘tabernacled’] among us” (Jn 1:14). What makes Jesus even better than the tabernacle?

## Connecting To Jesus And His Gospel

What is the distinction between those who are children of God and those who aren’t (see John 1:12-13)? How does our status as children of God inform how we approach Jesus?

God is miraculously both transcendent and immanent. He is transcendent because He is above and before us (“in the beginning ...”). He is immanent because He is near us (Jesus “became flesh and dwelt among us”). What is the danger of overemphasizing one over the other? How does a balanced view of both enrich your understanding of Jesus?

# Living Out The Truth

Have you become a child of God? How was your life “darkness” before Christ and “light” after knowing and believing in Christ?

What does it mean for believers that they’ve received “grace upon grace” (see also Romans 8:15-17)? Why are we so quick to resort back to our performance as a measure of righteousness?

How have you let the world shape your identity this week rather than your new identity as a child of God? What can you change to willfully put aside any lies and step into the truth of who you are in Christ?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Have you been bold in approaching the throne of God like a child of God? What change does that look like in your prayer life this week?

## Parenting Moment And Family Focus

Read Hebrews 4:16 as a family. How do you approach God? Is it with shame or shyness, or like children who can come to their father with confidence, knowing that their needs can be met? How can we, as a family, approach God this week?

## Further Study

Learn more about The Trinity!

John weaves vital threads of truth through this text. Below are some articles to learn more.

“Children of God.” Read [5 Things You Should Know About Adoption](#). Also, see why when “ ... properly understood, adoption is one of the most precious, heartwarming, and practical of all of our theological beliefs. It invites us to consider the amazing privilege that is ours that we should be called the children of God, in this article: [The Family of God](#). For an excellent overview, read [Seven Breathtaking Privileges of Being a Child of God](#).

*Transcendence and Immanence.* Marvel that God is “[A Consuming Fire](#).”

“*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*” The miracle of Christmas is not just for once a year: [The Incarnation of the Word of God](#).

Looking ahead to next week’s Sermon and Text:

- Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 1:19-34: ‘A Voice, Not Him’ and ‘Behold the Lamb of God’, and ‘The Son of God.’