

WEEK 1 - WHY JESUS?

Because in Jesus, we find ultimate hope: God has come near and darkness is defeated.

Texts: John 1:1–18; John 8:12

Key verses: **John 1:14** *“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his*

glory...” **John 8:12** *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life.*

Jesus is not merely a moral teacher, a religious founder or a spiritual guide. He is the eternal Word made flesh — God stepping into human history, bringing grace, truth and light into our darkness.

- The Human Question: We live in a city of options, opinions and identities – which one tells the ultimate truth?
- Turn 1: John begins not with advice, but with revelation
- Turn 2: Jesus is the light in the darkness
- Turn 3: The shock of Christianity is incarnation

If God has truly come near in Jesus, then he cannot be reduced to an interesting religious figure. He asks for trust. Will we trust him?

Summary

John opens his Gospel with one of the boldest claims in Scripture: Jesus is the eternal Word, present with God and being God, through whom all things were made. This immediately lifts Jesus out of the category of “helpful spiritual teacher” and places him at the centre of reality itself. He is not one voice among many. He is the One through whom life, meaning and creation hold together. John also describes Jesus as the light shining in the darkness.

Darkness in John is not only ignorance but alienation, lostness and resistance. Jesus enters that darkness not as another opinion but as divine revelation. In him, God is made known. In him, truth is not abstract but personal.

The climax comes in John 1:14: *“The Word became flesh.”* This is the heart of Christian faith. God has not remained distant, hidden or uninvolved. In Jesus, God comes near — into history, culture, weakness, grief and human need. This means Christianity is not fundamentally about our attempt to reach God; it is about God’s movement toward us in Christ. For a young-adult audience, this matters profoundly. In a world of ‘curated identities’, uncertainty and spiritual searching, Jesus offers more than ideas. He offers God’s presence, God’s grace and God’s truth. The first answer to the question “Why Jesus?” is simple but staggering: because in Jesus, God has come near.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the most common assumptions people have about Jesus today?

2. Why does John begin with eternity and creation rather than with Jesus' birth?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is both grace and truth?
4. If Jesus is truly God made flesh, how should that shape our response to him?