

# Encountering Christ: Grace & Truth

Life Group Questions – January 29, 2012

**Pastor Jeff – (John 1:1-18)**



## **Connect**

1. What did you end up doing over Christmas and New Year's?  
[new Life Groups: Give your name & how long you've been part of Cherry Hills.]

## **Study**

1. Our 40-week study in John is entitled, "Encountering Christ." By studying together the many encounters people had with Jesus retold in John's 21 chapters, we believe we will also encounter Jesus. What does the word "encounter" mean?
2. As a group, read John 1:1-18 aloud—inviting each person to read a verse until you've read it all. These verses are often called the Prologue (preface or introduction) of John's gospel. What major words or themes do you notice that John introduces here?
3. Now write down everything John 1:1-18 says about the Word—who or what He is and then what He does. What stands out to you, and why? Does it make any difference that John says Jesus is the Word instead of a Word from God? Why? (Hebrews 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1)
4. Compare John 1:1-2 and Genesis 1:1. They both begin with what phrase? Why does John open his gospel this way—what point is he making about Jesus (the Word)?
5. Many cults or false teachers argue either that Jesus is not God or that He was not human. In some cases, they've even changed the wording in their bibles (ex. Jehovah's Witnesses) or writings to support this. What difference does it make that Jesus is God who became flesh?
6. John 1:14 says the Word made His dwelling—literally, "pitched His tent" or "tabernacled"—among us. What did the Tabernacle represent in the Old Testament, and how was it associated with the glory of God (Exodus 40:34-35)? How is Jesus a better tabernacle for us?
7. This week, Jeff focused on John 1:14, and the last phrase that describes Jesus—He came from the Father "full of grace and truth." What does it mean to you that Jesus is full of both?
8. What happens in a church that emphasizes grace but not truth? Or, in a church that emphasizes truth but not grace? What happens when a church emphasizes both at the same time—what do people sense?
8. What happens when a parent emphasizes grace, but not truth, or vice-versa? What have you noticed happens in your own life when you emphasize grace, but not truth in your relationship with God and others, or vice-versa?

## **Pray**

As you wrap up this first session, have a volunteer pray that both our church family and your group (and all who are in it) will encounter Jesus—in all His grace and truth.