



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide

John 1: 1-14 | December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Prepared by Janae Barker

janae@gspc.org | (562) 493-2553 x109

## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue in our series titled, *Light of the World*. Over the past several weeks we have looked at the light promised, the light prepared, the light revealed, and this week we will look at the light received. Rather than beginning with shepherds or angels, John takes us behind the curtain of history itself—back before creation, before time, before Bethlehem. He shows us that Christmas is not merely the birth of a baby, but the entrance of the eternal Word into our world.

As we hear in John 1, that while Jesus was sent to his own, his own did not receive him. This week we will look at what darkness was like for the people Jesus entered into as well as consider the darkness that surrounds us today. As we consider how the people received Jesus, the light that entered in, may we too receive the light that is offered to us once again this Christmas season.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Have you ever known *about* someone for a long time before actually meeting them? How did your understanding change once that person became real and present in your life?

How might this help us think about the difference between knowing ideas about God and encountering God personally?

## III. Study the Text

*Read John 1: 1-5*

- Why do you think John begins his gospel with the words “In the beginning”? What does this connect us to?
- What do we learn about the Word’s relationship to God and to creation?
- John says, “in Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” How are life and light connected in this passage?
- Darkness is said to not overcome the light. Where do you see darkness resisting light in the world—or in yourself?



*Read John 1: 6-8*

- Why is John the Baptist careful to clarify that he is *not* the Light?
- What role does God assign to John in this passage?
- Why do you think God chooses to use human witnesses to point others to the Light?
- Who has been a “witness to the Light” in your own faith journey?

*Read John 1 9-11*

- What does it mean that the true Light “gives light to everyone”?
- How is it possible that the world was made through Him, yet did not recognize Him?
- Why do you think people often resist or reject the Light when it comes close?
- Where do you see this rejection playing out today—culturally or personally?

*Read John 1: 12-13*

- What is promised to those who receive Christ and believe in His name?
- How does John describe the new birth of God’s children?
- Why is it important that this identity is not based on human effort, heritage, or achievement?
- How might truly believing you are a child of God reshape how you live or see yourself?

*Read John 1: 14*

- *What stands out to you about the phrase “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”?*
- *Why do you think it matters that God did not remain distant, but took on real human flesh?*
- *John says we have seen His glory—full of grace and truth. Why do we need both grace and truth?*
- *How does this verse deepen or challenge your understanding of Christmas?*

#### **IV. Prayer**

*Spend time in prayer together:*

Praise Jesus as the eternal Word through whom all things were made.

Thank God for stepping into our darkness with His true Light.

Confess ways you may resist or ignore the Light in your own life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you receive Christ more fully and live as a child of God.

Pray that others may come to see the glory of God revealed in Jesus.

