

# THE GOSPEL

according to John

*'Written so that you may believe'*



Handouts to help you read & understand –  
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

## 1<sup>st</sup> Session      **THEME: Big reasons to believe in Jesus**

### 1. Icebreaker & prayer      10 minutes to get started

- 'This seems unbelievable!!! But later on: it is undeniably true.' Can you give an example of that?
- God speaks. Thank God for that. Ask that you may hear and understand what He says.

### 2. Read: John 1:1-18      10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

- Structure of this passage:
  - Vs. 1-5: the subject of the passage and of the book: who/what is the subject?
  - Vs. 6-8: the source by whom the author came to know and believe the subject: who is that source?
  - Vs. 9-14: the story about the subject in a nutshell: what is that story?
  - Vs. 15: the source again: what does he claim about the subject?
  - Vs. 16-18: the solution that this story offers for the one who believes: what was the problem?

### 3. Read again: John 1:1-18      10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

- Who – according to this passage – is Jesus Christ?
- Which grounds – according to this passage – are there to believe what is claimed about Jesus Christ?
- Which problem – according to this passage – did Jesus Christ come to deal with?
- What profit – according to this passage – can we enjoy through Jesus Christ?
- How – according to this passage – do we gain this profit?
- According to this passage, there are big reasons to believe in Jesus. Try to put these in a single phrase. (Some moments of silence may be helpful to think about a good answer)

### 4. Read John 1:12-13      10 – 15 minutes for the last question

- Look at a problem you currently struggle with. If we begin to believe in Jesus, the problem may still be there, unchanged. But the identity of the one who believes is changed, he has become a child of God. What difference does that make? Take some moments of silence and briefly share your thoughts.

### 5. End with prayer

- Thank God for speaking today. Pray for what has just been mentioned.

### Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (vs. 14). The Greek word for 'dwelt' here is literally 'tabernacled', or 'dwelt in a tent'. This reminds of the time when God would travel (unseen) with his people in a tent through the desert to the promised land.

### Teaser for the next meeting:

The Gospel according to John says there are big reasons to believe in Jesus. But how do people become believers in Jesus? Is that just a matter of being born in a Christian family? Next time we read John 1:19-51 and we will learn more about the process of becoming a believer in Jesus.