

# 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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session      **THEME: How awareness of Jesus begins**

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

- Which prejudices may hinder people around you to get interested in Christianity?
- God makes himself known. Thank God for that. Ask Him to use today's meeting for that.

### 2. Read: John 1:19-51      10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

- Structure of this passage:
  - Vs. 19-28: John interrogated by the religious leaders. How would you summarize his testimony?
  - Vs. 29-34: John points to Jesus. What does he preach about Jesus?
  - Vs. 35-42: Three men become connected to Jesus. Who are they?
  - Vs. 43-51: Two more men become connected to Jesus. How does Philip deal with prejudice?

### 3. Look again at: John 1:19-51      10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

- What has helped the people in this passage to become aware of who Jesus is?
- In this passage you find several claims of who Jesus is. Try to find these.
- The Old Testament provides a frame of reference to understand Jesus. Can you give a few examples?

### 4. Look again at: John 1:19-51      10 – 15 minutes for the last question

- Take some minutes of silence and ask God to show you what – after studying this passage – you might pray now.

### 5. End with prayer

- Nobody must feel forced. But let everyone feel free to say aloud his or her prayer now.

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

Once God redeemed his people from an oppressive nation and travelled with his people through the wilderness to the promised land. The prophet Isaiah foresaw that later on, it would all happen again, in a deeper way. Then God's people would not be led by Moses, but by 'the servant of God'. By this servant the whole story of Israel would come to its fulfilment. When God travelled with his people in the time of Moses, many were hardly aware of what was happening. Isaiah announced that later on that would be the case again. Even though the Lord himself would have come, many would simply not be aware. However, as a result, worldwide people would be forgiven, reconnected to God and become worshippers of him. In other words: the book of Isaiah provides a lot of background information to understand John's Gospel.

### Teaser for the next meeting:

Today we saw four unforgettable days from the diary of the author of the Gospel. Next time we will look at the fifth day. And at what happened afterward. And we will see that the first believers in Jesus began to perceive what Jesus has come for.