

# Marks of Discipleship

January 3, 2020

## Day 1: John 1:1-4

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.***

The passage does not stress how things were created but that God created life. This verse states that before God was incarnate in Jesus, Jesus was part of God. In this verse John merges the creative and redemptive aspects of God. Jesus actually brought with Him the power of giving life.

**Question:** What does this term “Word” refer to?

**Challenge:** Look up in a concordance the term “Word” and see where else it is used in the Bible.

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-31

## Day 2: John 1:5

***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.***

The term darkness is used here to describe evil. Evil is hard to see clearly and has the effect of discouraging people and making them feel powerless. One of the hardest things for us to deal with is the feeling of being powerless. We can feel so helpless that doing something positive seems like a waste of energy. In the first century when Christians were being hunted down and put to death in the arenas, other Christians could do little but stand outside and pray. Time has shown that that act of praying was the most powerful thing that could be done even though it did not feel like it at the time

**Question:** Sit in total darkness for a while. How does it feel?

**Challenge:** How would you explain why darkness cannot overcome light?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:1-3

## Day 3: John 1:9-11

***The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.***

The true light is one that illumines everything. It enables us to see from all angles and very clearly. John is describing what happened during all of Jesus’ life and ministry. Some people got the message but many others would not believe. It wasn’t that they *could not* believe but that they *would not* believe.

**Question:** When have you felt unaccepted?

**Challenge:** Why do you think the world did not recognize Jesus?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 24:1-12

## Day 4: John 1:12-13

***But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.***

This is one of the most important passages in the Bible. It states the great truth that our relationship to God does not depend on how we were born but to whom we acknowledge as Lord. When a person acknowledges someone as Lord they become a servant. But we see here that when we acknowledge Jesus as Lord we become children of God.

**Question:** Do you think it is better to be born into a family or adopted into one. Why?

**Challenge:** How do we become born of God?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 44:1-8

## Day 5: John 1:14

***And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.***

Compare this verse with either Luke 2:1-20 or Matthew 2:1-12 and note that they say the same thing but in very different terms. Incarnation means that God became known in a physical form. This physical form was a human being born as a baby. An infant looks powerless yet commands our attention. An infant seems helpless yet has us do everything for it. An infant appears to be emotionless but calls forth such love from others. The gentleness of the infant shows the very nature of God. The most powerful force in the universe gives life.

**Question:** Who do you most look like, your father or mother? Next, to whom is your personality most like, your father or mother?

**Challenge:** How is Jesus recognized today? How do people see His “glory?”

**Scripture:** Romans 10:12-21

## Day 6: John 1:17

***The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

Laws enable us as a society to live in peace and fairness. Yet real life comes from Love. The truth is if we try to live in our relationships just by law we will find our life becoming dull and lifeless.

**Question:** Where have you learned the most from in your life, books or people?

**Challenge:** When you hear the word “Law,” what comes to your mind? What comes to mind when you hear the word “love?”

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:1-10