



## Advent: Week 4

**Date:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

**Speakers:** Jeff Stamps & Paul Gattling

**Key Verses:** John 1:14,16-18

### Talk Summary:

John in the first chapter of his book describes how Jesus was there at the beginning of creation, He was with God and He was God. He was the true light that came into the world and to those who believed He gave the right to become children of God.

In the key verses we looked at four ways in which John describes what sort of rescuer Jesus is...

1) **Jesus is more intimately familiar with our lives...**

Jesus became human and made His dwelling amongst us. He experienced many typically human struggles and plenty of other struggles that many of us will thankfully never experience. Therefore, He is able to relate to our specific struggles and frustrations.

2) **Jesus is more powerful and has the authority to bring change...**

Jesus came with the power and the authority of the Father. Sometimes we need to submit to His authority and trust that He knows best. Other times, when we're ministering and praying for people, we can use Jesus' authority over their situation.

3) **Jesus is more gracious to forgive...**

John says that Moses brought the law but Jesus brings grace. If you need forgiveness, then Jesus has grace upon grace for you.

4) **Jesus is more able to make God known to us...**

The passage says that no one had ever seen God but Jesus has made Him known. Jesus is the perfect representation of God and allows us to know Him and be in relationship with Him.

## **Group Discussion Questions**

### **Welcome**

*If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.*

### **Worship**

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

### **Word**

*We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.*

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

### **Witness**

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?