

Remaining in Christ: Jesus' "I am" statements in the Gospel of John

Session I

Questions for Reflection

The Word Becomes Flesh (John 1:1-18)

These questions are deep, and you will need to spend some time reflecting before you answer. We suggest you choose one or two questions each day and work on them throughout the week.

Scribble page provided (next page). Print it out to use it.

1. According to John, everything that exists was created through God's logos – God's creative Word and divine Wisdom. The logos has left its divine imprint on every created, living thing. How might this understanding of creation influence the way you perceive and respond to people who are very different from you in today's world?
2. Many people understand "heaven" as the goal of life after death, where we escape from the toils and snares of the physical world we live in now. Based on specific parts of this passage, how do you think John would respond to this view?
3. Many people suggest that the Gospel of John primarily portrays Jesus as divine, emphasizing his exalted status, rather than depicting him as a human being. Based on this passage, do you agree or disagree with this assessment? What verses support your view? Which perspective – the divine or human nature of Jesus – receives greater emphasis in your own theological reflection? Why?
4. One dimension of "truth" is "not forgetting." What are some of the world's temptations that lead us to "forget" that we have been created in and through the divine image? In what ways does Jesus help you "not forget" the divine image in which you are created? What practices do you undertake so as not to forget how God calls you to live into the divine image in which you were created?
5. Given John's characterization of Jesus as the Word or Wisdom of God made flesh, who would you say is speaking each time Jesus says something or teaches someone in this Gospel? Does this distinction make any difference?
6. What new insights have you gained from this close reading of John 1:1-18?

use this space for your thoughts, notes,
scribbles, or drawings as you reflect

