

The Word Became Flesh

*1 In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. 2 He was in the
beginning with God. 3 All things came
into being through him, and without*

THE GREAT THESIS

AN IN-DEPTH-STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN AND HIS EIGHT CLAIMS

*What has come into being, which
was life,[14] and the life was the light of
all people. 5 The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it.*

*6 There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John. 7 He came as
a witness to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him. 8 He
himself was not the light, but he came
to testify to the light. 9 The true light,
which enlightens everyone, was
coming into the world.[15]*

*10 He was in the world, and the world
came into being through him; yet the
world did not know him. 11 He came
to what was his own,[16] and
people did not accept him. 12 But to all
who received him, who believed in his*

*name, he gave power to become
children of God, 13 who were born, not
of blood or of the will of the flesh or of
the will of man, but of God.
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, 15 full of grace and truth. 16 (John
testified to him and cried out, 'This
was he of whom I said, "He who
comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me."'') 17 From
his fullness we have all received, grace
upon grace. 18 The law indeed was
given through Moses; grace and truth
came through Jesus Christ. 19 No one
has ever seen God. It is God the only
Son,[17] who is close to the Father's
heart,[18] who has made him known.*

The Testimony of John the Baptist
*19 This is the testimony given by John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are
you?' He confessed and did not deny
it, but confessed, 'I am not the
Messiah.' [19] 21 And they asked him,
'Good come out of Nazareth?' Philip*



ACTS
STUDIES

Study Background and Information:

Many people will read the Gospels blindly with no clue what they are reading about and the weight of the material that they are reading. People often don't realize that they are reading the living and active revelation of a personal God.

This can lead to misconceptions or a lack of interest in the Gospels as well as scripture as a whole, both of which are bad.

Throughout my experience with the Gospels, they can be the hardest to read but also the most spiritually fulfilling. But why are they so hard to read? Of course there are the people that "don't like reading" or even just don't like the type of literature. That being said, reading the bible is something all Catholics have to do, even if we don't always find it enjoyable.

Scott Hanh, a great biblical scholar talks about how, if you don't enjoy scripture it is not scripture itself but your understanding of it. If you were to fully understand the magnitude of which you are reading, you wouldn't want to put it down, you wouldn't be able to get enough of it.

When people struggle with their faith it often has to do with a thought that they aren't doing good enough. In reality it is because of comparison to other people. You must find a way to read the bible that fits you. You also must make sure that you have a good theological understanding of it. Be careful to not derive false ideas from it.

Throughout this study we will pull from the Old Testament. As someone with a reading disability, I know how hard it can be to read the New Testament and even harder to read the Old Testament but it is very rewarding when you start to read and understand it.

The Bible has a complex structure with so many names, and a lot of information all pertaining to a bunch of different stories that somehow connect. Yet it is all compiled in a semi non-chronological order. It makes sense to be lost but it is so very important that we are a "Bible people", and we must make sure that we are reading the scriptures, on our own time, outside of church, just like you will do in this group.

Our suggestion is to buy a Bible, or get one that you already have, that can be yours, no one else will use it. Then get some pens, highlighters, and sticky notes. As you work

through the Scriptures take notes and annotate what you find important and what you have questions about.

It is important that you make your bible a dwelling place, one in which you feel comfortable to be vulnerable in, to take time to reflect on the good, and the bad.

You can't just be going to scripture as a way to cope but you also shouldn't just use scripture when you are in a moment of consolation.

This means that your 'dwelling place' must be ready to host both tears of joy and tears of great sadness, and some days you might feel absolutely nothing, and the conversation might be dry, and that is alright.

The Bible that I use for my studies, is one I have had for years, and received from my mom. I will most likely end up giving it to one of my kids as well. This is all to say, have a personal bible, that you can make your own.

Knowing God, is in part knowing scripture because Sacred Scripture is how God reveals himself to us. He shows us who He is, how He loves us, and his mission to save us.

ACTS Studies are based on the common thought that there is more sharing and idea discourse than there is reading or watching videos, this is not a class but a study for all members to actively participate in.

This study is will go over eight theses over the course of the sessions. The Eight Theses which we will cover later are listed below:

- One: In the beginning was the Word (Jesus is the Word incarnate (Made flesh)) And the Word was present for creation.
- Two: The Word was with God (Jesus was with God not merely created by him but an active participant in Creation)
- Three: The word was God (Jesus is God)
- Four: He was in the beginning with God (Jesus was in the beginning with God)
- Five: All things came to be through him (Creation came to be through God and Jesus is God so Creation came to be through Jesus)

- Six: Without him nothing Came to be (Without Jesus there is nothing because without Jesus you too would be without God)
- Seven: Through him was life (Through God comes life in Creation and Jesus is God so through Jesus comes life)
- Eight. This life is the light of the World. (Jesus is the light of the world that Isaiah talks about)

This Study is formatted so that your group can work through these eight theses, while at the same time working through the Gospel. Each Study we will have one of the eight to focus on, and how John proves it. Each study will also go through one or two chapters of the Gospel.

It is important that you don't rush though, if one session takes two or three meeting times to get through that is okay. Sometimes my group will go on for an hour and a half talking about one paragraph.

We recommend that you spend an hour to an hour and a half on the study portion, and then have some time for fellowship before or afterwards.

We can't wait to accompany you on this journey through the Gospel of John!

God Bless,

Tucker J. DeVack | Founder and President of ACTS



Study Information:

Study Type: In depth biblical analysis

Study Provider: ACTS Studies

Meeting Period: Bi-weekly; Hour to an hour and a half meetings

Length: Ten Sessions

Materials: Bible, Bible Pens and Highlighters, and a note pad