

READ VERSES 1-5

1. How does John capture the Word's majesty and grandeur in these verses?
2. What does John describe the Word's relationship with God?
3. How does he describe his relationship with us?

READ VERSES 9-13

1. How should the world have responded to the Word?
2. How should Israel have responded to the Word?
3. How should we respond to the Word?
4. What happens when we do?
5. How should we build on our initial response to the Word?

READ VERSES 14 & 16-18

Moses spoke of a prophet that would be greater than he. John is in effect saying, "This is the one who Moses pointed to."

1. How is Jesus superior to Moses?
2. What are the benefits of the Law?
3. What do we receive from Jesus that we could never receive from the Law?

APPLICATION

1. What are some things we see in Jesus that should serve as a pattern for the way we interact with those around us?
2. When people looked at Jesus, they saw his glory. What should they see when they look at us?

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OUR MODEL FOR MISSION | JOHN 1:1-18



We often speak of God in terms of "transcendence" and "immanence." God's transcendence refers to the grandeur and majesty of his being. To paraphrase the songwriter, "He is so high above us." Isaiah captures the idea beautiful in the couplet, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

As Isaiah stared into the heavens he had no idea that the outer reaches of the universe were nearly forty-six billion light years from his vantage point in Jerusalem. For Isaiah God was big. For us, he should be even bigger.

When we speak of the immanence of God we are speaking in terms of his nearness and accessibility. The psalmist reminds us, "As a Father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him (Psalm 103:13)." God's immanence is brought into sharp relief in the person of Christ. After describing the transcendence of Christ in elevated prose, John surprises us with the earthy statement, "And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14)."

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Joan Osborne's wistful longing, "What if God were one of us..." He was. He took on our form. Experienced our pain. Walked in our shoes.

It is God's willingness to dwell among us that serves as the model for our ministry in the world. We need to be close enough to those around us that they can see, feel, hear about and be comforted by the grace we have received in Christ.