

**REWRITTEN**  
**WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**"A NEW BEGINNING"**

**READ**

This week we started our new Christmas series, titled "Rewritten". We looked at Jesus' birth as a new beginning after first reflecting back to the creation story.

**John 1:1-5**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

"In the beginning" is a direct quote from Genesis 1:1, which every good first century Jew would have been familiar with. Instead of starting the story of Jesus with his birth, John points back to the beginning of creation. The Word was how God created everything. God spoke and it happened. The word was God's agent for accomplishing his will.

In Genesis 1 the first thing God creates is light, it is the beginning of creation. God designed humans to reflect his light in creation, but we chose to live in darkness by rebelling against God.

Christmas is the announcement that light came into the world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". This light is making a way back to God. Everything that went wrong, this new creation is setting right. This new creation will redeem and restore the old creation.

**John 1:14**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The word became flesh. God's will became flesh. This flesh and blood word is the son of God. The Word engaged the world by bringing the fullness of grace and truth. He made his dwelling among us. Dwelling is about engaging. Often, we make faith about attending, it's more than that. If you want your faith to grow you have to engage with people and mission.

**John 1:17**

*...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

Jesus Christ. The word. The light. God in the flesh. This baby was going to change everything. This baby was going to rewrite history by making a brand-new creation, right here in the middle of this old one.

If you look at what Jesus talked about during his life it was this idea he called the Kingdom. Of God or Heaven.

**Matthew 6:10**

*your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

Jesus life, death, and resurrection were ultimately about brining God's kingdom here. God's kingdom is the reality defined by grace, forgiveness, love, hope, joy and peace, instead of death and decay. It's not just about going to heaven, it's about us living in a whole new reality. Being a part of a brand-new creation that is changing this old creation. That's why Jesus calls his followers salt and light. Living in God's kingdom means that my life brings hope and change here in this old creation.

**DISCUSS**

Share about one of your favorite Christmas memories.

God designed us to reflect his light in creation. What are some ways you have seen God's light reflected in someone you know?

How does your life reflect God's light to others?

What helps you live your life in the light?

In the message this week we talked about faith being so much more than just getting into heaven. John Ortberg was quoted as saying "What if salvation is not about getting into heaven, but about getting heaven into us?" Share your thoughts on this.

If you want your faith to grow, you have to engage with people and mission. Brainstorm with your group ways you can do this.

**PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that we would invite others to experience Christmas here at FCC.

**PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that each of us would be salt and light in the world. Pray that our lives would point others to the hope and change available in Christ.

**PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Pray that our global partners would continue to share the hope of Jesus to unreached people. Pray that hearts would be softened and ears opened to hear and receive the good news of Christ.