



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of December 11, 2023

1. Have you or your family ever experienced an epic Christmas failure? What went wrong? Lights? Presents? Travel chaos? What was the outcome? Share your story with the group. How was Jesus' life and light a perfect success (see also John 3:16; 1 John 5:13)?
2. Read John 1:1-5 from two different Bible translations. John opens his gospel with a "prologue" in the first 18 verses, which sets the stage for the rest of the biography about Jesus. Did you know that John wrote this gospel with an agenda in mind? What was his agenda (see John 20:30-31)?
3. When was Jesus' beginning? Was it inside Mary's womb, in the manger, or something else? Explain your answer based on John 1:1-2.
4. What is another famous passage in the Bible that has the phrase "*In the beginning...*"? Why do you think John decided to start his biography with this information? What is he trying to tell us about Jesus?
5. In Christian theology, the correct way to speak about the Trinity is to say that "*God is one in essence, three in person.*" How does the word "*with*" in verse 1 accentuate the relationship between Jesus and His Father? In what ways is Jesus the same as His Father? In what ways is He unique? (read John 10:30, 37-38; 17:1-4 for assistance)
6. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was the first created Being. They will say that Jesus is heavenly, but not full deity. They translate John 1:1 to say that Jesus is "*a god*". If Jesus isn't fully divine, what does that mean for these other areas of His life and ministry?
 - *His miracles? His healings? His death on the cross?*
 - *His resurrection from the grave?*
 - *His ability to forgive sin and give eternal life?*
7. Read John 1:3. Was it only God the Father who was involved in the work of creation? What does Colossians 1:15-17 say about Jesus' involvement? (Guess what: The Holy Spirit was also involved in creation (Genesis 1:2).
8. Today's secular world is filled with sin, corruption, and moral darkness. Can it ever "overcome" the light of Jesus and His gospel? Why is this such good news for your witness at work, among friends and family, at school, or in the neighborhood? In what ways can you be more "bold" with the light?