

Be Loved Faith Study

Session 1: Be Loved, Be...

Additional Resource

Illumination from *The Saint John's Bible: The Word Make Flesh*

John 1

Donald Jackson, artist

With one or two other people (or individually), reflect on the illumination of The Word Made Flesh.

- Recall or re-read the scripture text from John 1 below.
- Take a moment to reflect silently on the illumination.
- What from the illumination speaks to you today? What do you notice?
- Together, share what you are seeing and thinking about the Bible text and the illumination.
- The decorative script at the left of the image is from Colossians 1:15-20 (see the text below). How does this text connect to the text of John 1?
- How do you interpret the figure of Jesus here? What does the figure tell you about Jesus?
- What could be the purpose of the keyhole at the left of the image?
- What does it mean to be part of a faith community called, Incarnation? How do the text and the Illumination reveal who we are to be or what we are to be about?
- For more background on this Illumination, check out:
<https://library.nd.edu.au/sjbtour/wordmadeflesh>

John 1:1-9, 14 (NIV)

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.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world...

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.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NRSV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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