

Gospel of John - The Parable of Joy  
Chapter 1

Questions

1. What is your understanding of the Hebrew word “Debar” and how it compares with Jesus being the “Logos”?
2. Jesus is the Creator. See Col. 1:15-17 and Proverbs 8:22. Does this reality make you think the persons of the Trinity may have different roles?
3. John 1:5 is discussed as being a birth narrative. Compare it to the other birth narratives.
4. “...became flesh and pitched a tent among us...” (John 1:14). What feast of Israel does this remind you of? Do you feel it has future implications?
5. John the Baptist is asked if he is the Prophet (Deut. 18). What misunderstandings of the messianic prophecies did the Jews have?
6. The rabbis taught that “every task a slave does for his master shall a disciple do for his rabbi, except the loosening of the sandal thong.” (This act was seen as too demeaning for a disciple. What is John the Baptist trying to tell us? What future act of Christ is even more amazing in light of this?
7. Jesus’ first words to John were “What are you looking for?” If we are honest with ourselves about what we are looking for what would it be? What should we be looking for?
8. In 1:43-51 we again see a reference to Deut. 18:15. This must have been an important theme for Jews of that day.
9. Re-read the background story on Jesus, Nathanael and the fig tree. What were “true Israelites” focusing on?
10. The narrative implies that Jesus is saying he is the ‘ladder’ in Jacob’s dream (Gen. 28). What do you think about that point of view and what could God be trying to teach us through it?