

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Come and See // In the Beginning
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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What place on earth makes you wonder and marvel at its creation?

Reading: John 1:1-3

Outline:

- I. The Word (v. 1a)
 - a. In these first few words, John makes the point that in order to know about the life of Jesus, you must go all the way to the beginning, to creation.
 - b. By pointing back to creation, we can see how God speaks to create, and how alongside an eternal God there comes His eternal Word.
Q: What does creation do when God speaks?
- II. The Revealing Word (v.1b-2)
 - a. Just like how our words reflect our thoughts and character, God's word reveals who he is, and in these verses, we're shown Jesus' part in that.
 - b. Jesus is declared to be one with the Word, meaning Jesus also reveals who God is
Q: How can we study who God is?
- III. The Creating Word (v.3)
 - a. This verse highlights how truly amazing it is that God is the creator of every single thing.
 - b. We must not get lost in that grandeur and try to measure God by man's standards.
Q: What does creation reveal about God?
- IV. The Saving Word (v. 3)
 - a. Being made by God for God means we are responsible to Him.
 - b. The same word that reveals His person reveals God's saving purpose for our salvation.
Q: How does creation point to our salvation?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How should our personal creation stories reflect the world's creation story?
- 2) Why is it so important to study God's word?
- 3) When does God's power get lost in our standards of living?
- 4) Why do we try to avoid the reality that we are responsible to God?
- 5) How does knowing who God is change us?

Suggestions for further study:

- Psalm 33:6 **Q: What is the relationship between God and creation?**
- Isaiah 40:26 **Q: How is God's complex power seen here?**

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, you are beyond our comprehension. You are magnificent, glorious, and transcendent. Yet you chose to reveal yourself to us through sending your son Jesus. You chose to reveal that you're not just a creator, you're not just transcendent, but you're a God who loves us deeply. At the center of all things, your love is holding us together. So God, teach us to lean into your love and that reality this advent and always. In your holy name, Amen.