

A person is shown from the chest up, holding up the word "NEW" in large, glowing, white letters. The person's arms are extended, and they are wearing a dark green long-sleeved shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

New Presence

John 1:1-18

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. What is something "new" that you have acquired recently? How have you enjoyed it? Why do you think we tend to like new things?
3. Discuss how John is different from the other Gospels. Read John 20:31. Why was John written? Have you experienced real and new life through belief in Jesus?
4. The prologue of John reveals a New Presence on earth. Read John 1:1-2. Why do you think John starts his Gospel "in the beginning" and not the birth of Jesus? Why is Jesus called "the Word"? See also Hebrews 1:1-2. How does Jesus being the Eternal God increase your faith in his sovereign care over your life, family, and mission?
5. Read John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16-17. What did Jesus do and what does he still do? How does Jesus being the Creator God increase your faith in his ability to know about our world and hold things together in your life?
6. Read John 1:4-5, 9. What two essential realities does Jesus' presence bring into the world? How are light and life related? What does light do for us? In what area of your life are you most encouraged that darkness cannot overcome light?
7. Read John 1:6-8, 15. What was John the Baptizer's role and how is this encouraging to you in your efforts to be a witness for Jesus?
8. Read John 1:10-11. Earlier, John said that Jesus was the "true light that gives light to everyone" (1:9). If Jesus lights every person, why don't all people follow him? See John 3:19-2 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. Discuss the irony and tragedy of these verses.
9. Read John 1:12-13. Not everyone rejected Jesus. How do we receive Jesus? How would you define "believe" – is it simply mental recognition? What happens to us when we believe? How can you be more intentional living in this new status?
10. Read John 1:14, 16-17. Do you tend to lean more toward grace or truth? How does Jesus' embodiment of both challenge you? In what significant ways does being full of both grace and truth affect how you relate to and treat other people?
11. Read John 1:18. How can we really know what God is like? See also John 10:30; 14:9, Colossians 2:9, and Hebrews 1:3. In this prologue, which aspects of God's New Presence in Jesus most encourage you today? Why?
12. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.