



John 1:1-5 Creation: The Backstage Pass

The first sermon was called Creation: A Backstage Pass. Perhaps start with that as a brainteaser: in what way is John 1:1-3 a backstage pass?

1. The Eternal Word

Why was 'In the Beginning...' such a dramatic way to start this Gospel? (cf Gen 1:1)

Logos was much broader than the English word 'Word': it had essentially two meanings: It could refer to logic, reason: inner thoughts. So v1 was intriguing for fans of Greek philosophy, and drew them to seek the ultimate Reason/Logic of the world who had entered the world as a man.

Or it could refer to the outward expression of the inward thought. For Jews, the term Logos would remind them of the mysterious figure in the OT Scriptures who was God's agent in creation, revelation and salvation- see Ps 33:6; Jer 1:4; Ps 107:20

Jeremy argued that God is not a God who hides himself from us.
How does John 1 show that?

(Theologian Don Carson says you could paraphrase v1 this way: “In the beginning, God expressed himself, and this self-expression was with God, and this self-expression was God.”)

Furthermore, how does v 14 help us see that God is not a God who has remained hidden from us?

Why does v1 defy our finite understanding?

Why is it okay that there are some things we cannot explain?

Make sure you leave time to express your wonder in prayer at the greatness of Jesus, the eternal Word.

2. The Agent of Creation

The sermon mentioned Sir Christopher Wren. Which artists, architects or composers do you admire?

Do you give much thought to the truth that Jesus Christ is the Creator?

Which animals/ plants/ landscapes do you find particularly wondrous?

3. The Light

V4 shows that the life that was in the Word was the light of all mankind. In your prayer time, make time to thank God for light in the good things you see in non-Christian society- art, education, sport, novels, comedy etc

What are the two possible meanings of the word ‘overcome’ in v5?
(see NIV footnote)

-it’s worth looking up John 12:35 to see the same word used (there translated ‘overtake’)

-how might both of the meanings (understand & overcome) be true of the darkness’ response to Jesus?

What darkness in the world (near or far) distresses you?

What examples can you tell of where the Light has or is overcoming the darkness?

Make time to pray that the darkness will not overcome the light.

For Junior Church Leaders:

It may be helpful to do a vivid reading of Genesis 1, to help the children learn about/ be reminded of God's Creation. And then show from John 1 that Jesus Christ was actually there in the beginning before there was the earth, seas, light, animals, birds & humans.

You could teach them some basics about world religions, maybe using a map and explain which groups revere Moses, Mohammed and Gautama the Buddha.

If done sensitively so it won't lead to ungracious comments at multicultural schools, you could explore how Jesus as agent of Creation is greater, since he created all these philosophers and prophets.

A vivid visual aid is to shine a torch and notice how it doesn't make a big difference in the daylight; but in a dark cupboard / inside a cardboard box, a small light can illuminate the whole room/ box. Ask the children what dark things they see where people at school are behaving badly. Discuss how this should make us sad. But stress that when things are really dark, it can make the light shine brighter.

What can they do in the darkness of an evil world to do good to others and shine the light of Jesus?