

Necessary Good

Scripture and Background Information for April 16-22.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Most of us are familiar with things that we call “necessary evil.” Things like laundry, exercise, or in some cases things like war and taxes. In this series we’re going to look at 4 things that are necessary for Good to triumph over the evil in our world and in each of our lives. Why did Jesus live? Why did Jesus have to die? Why did Jesus rise from the dead? And why did Jesus leave? The Bible has more to say in answering each of those questions than most of us have thought very deeply about, even if we have an answer we would give. They all relate to the Necessary Good your Heavenly Father is restoring in the world, and wants to bring into your life as well.

Background for Passage John 1:14-18:

The Gospel of John is an account of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection that begins in a unique way. The author, John, introduces his book similarly to the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 by saying, “In the beginning,” and talking about the creation of all things. However, instead of simply referencing God in his passage, John introduces someone called the Word (John 1:1). Through John 1:1-5 we find out that the Word is actually God Himself. He is described as being preexistent and the One who created all things. But, later in John 1, the Word does something completely unexpected.

John 1:14-18 says that the Word became flesh and lived with humans. This means that the God of the universe truly became a human being and lived in the midst of real people. Then we find out in verse 17 that the Word is Jesus Christ. So, Jesus Christ Himself is the God of the universe who became incarnate on the Earth as a human being. He is both completely God and human at the same time. Also, from this passage, we find out that the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation was to show humanity who God truly is. Specifically, Jesus showed us God’s glory, the grace that God offers us, and the truth He calls us to live out every day.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What is surprising about Jesus becoming flesh and dwelling among us? How does Jesus demonstrate throughout His life that He is both fully God and fully human?
2. In verse 18 it says that Jesus has made God known to us. How did Jesus show us who God is? What characteristics of God did Jesus reveal to humanity during his time on Earth? What does it look like for you to know God today, thousands of years after He lived amongst human beings?
3. Grace is a major theme throughout this passage. How did Jesus’ incarnation bring grace to us? How do we receive this grace? In what ways can the grace that Jesus offers through His incarnation impact us today?

4. When you think of “necessary evil” what first comes to mind for you? How does Jesus becoming Man allow good to overcome evil in our world? In your life?