

**Advent/Christmas texts**  
**Bible Study class**  
**Lesson 6 outline**  
**August 27, 2017**

**Introduction**

John's presentation of the Gospel has a significantly different "feel" from the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When reading through John's Gospel, we find many stories we had not read in the other gospels, and the writing seems to be more philosophical in some significant ways. There are some very comforting texts in John (*for God so loved the world; I am the way, the truth, and the life*, to name two). But there are also some challenging texts.

John's different approach is immediately apparent as he describes Jesus.

**John 1:1-17**

1. Read John 1:1-4. Make a list of qualities of the Word that John mentions. How long as Jesus existed? What power does Jesus have?
2. How do these qualities of Jesus help us understand the infant Jesus we celebrate in our Christmas plays at church? Sit back and ponder these things for a few moments. How do they help you worship "Christ, the newborn king?"
3. Verses 10-13 outline a difficult tension that would exist between Jesus and the world. What did this tension come to look like?
4. In verse 12, John affirms that those who receive Jesus "become children of God." Does this mean that we are not children of God until we come to faith in Jesus?
5. In what ways is it shocking that God would take on flesh and "live among us?" How does this make you want to honor Jesus?