MOROGORO BIBLE COLLEGE

# Looking at John through the lens of the prologue 1:1-18

## *1:1-5 ‘in the beginning’*

### Genesis 1:1

### Jesus as the Word vv 1, 14; cf. Genesis 1:3 ‘God said’

### Jesus as the true light vv 4-5, 9; cf. Genesis 1:3 ‘Let there be light’

### ‘in him was life’ v 4; ‘without him nothing was made that has been made’ v 3;cf. Genesis 1:20-24 ‘living creatures’

## *1:6-13 the word and the world*

### John the baptist introduced and his role vv 6-8

#### Sent from God v 6

#### Testifies to the light vv 7-8

##### But he is not the Messiah 1:19-21

##### Jesus is the lamb of God 1:29, 36

##### Jesus is the son of God 1:34

### Word and world

#### World in John has three senses

##### physical reality 1:10 (and (1:9; 3:17, 19; 6:14)

##### something God loves and want to save 3:16, 17c; :29; 4:42; 6:51

##### but also ‘a symbol of wayward humanity’ (Skinner)—the world hates Jesus and his people 7:1-7; 15:18-21; 17:14-15

#### the world divides—but some ‘receive’ Jesus vv 12-13; cf. 3:3, 5

## *1:14-18 the word in the world*

### contrast ‘be’ and ‘become’ vv 1-2, 14

### pitching his tent v 14; cf. Exodus 40:35; Leviticus 26:11-12; cf. Sukkoth, the feast of tabernacles

### *monogenēs* ‘one of a kind’ v 14

### John’s testimony v 15 points forward to 1:30

### Grace 4x in vv 14-17—'grace ladelled over grace’

### Jesus the unique revealer of God v 18—only God can reveal God; cf. 14:6, 9

## Key ideas from the prologue to look for as you read the Gospel (Christopher Skinner)

### The Word…

#### was with God in a unique eternal significance vv 1-2

#### was the agent of all creation v 3

#### was the light of humanity and enlightens those in the world vv 4, 9

#### is the one with authority to appoint God’s children v 12

#### became flesh in Jesus Christ vv 14, 17

#### displays God’s glory v 14

#### dispenses grace and truth vv 16-17

#### lives in intimate union with the Father v 18b

#### reveals the Father to humanity v 18c

## Group work

Which ideas from the prologue (1:1-18) are being used in the passage you are studying, and how are they being developed in the later story?

#### 3:1-21

#### 5:1-47

#### 8:12-59

#### 9:1-41

#### 10:1-42