



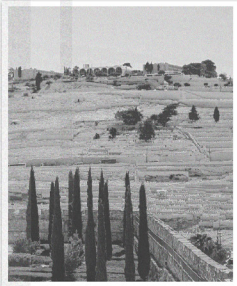
that you may

# BELIEVE

The Purpose of This Book

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Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## THE BEGINNINGS OF BELIEF

### discussion questions

1. God prepared people for belief in Jesus through the ministry of John the Baptist. Why was John's ministry important? In your own life, how did God prepare you for belief?
2. God uses relationship to accomplish his purposes. How have relationships been used in your life to draw you to God? Currently, what relational opportunities might you need to cultivate in order to further grow in your faith?
3. Nathanael had a certain impression of Nazareth that initially kept him from considering Jesus. Was there something that initially prevented you from considering Jesus? What similar hindrances do people tend to struggle with today?
4. Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me." This is one of many times in the gospels that Jesus issues that charge. Look up some of the other times that Jesus calls people into discipleship in this way (e.g. Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 2:13-17, Mark 8:34-38, Luke 9:57-62, John 12:20-26, John 21:15-23). What stands out to you from these examples?
5. Was there a time in your life when Jesus drew a line in the sand and asked you to follow? What did that look like? Do you sense that he's asking you to follow him in some specific way right now? How so?



### The Book of John

The Word Became Flesh

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>7</sup> He was in the world, and the world did not know him.<sup>8</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.<sup>9</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.<sup>10</sup> Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>11</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.<sup>12</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")<sup>13</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>14</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.<sup>15</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

<sup>16</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.<sup>17</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.