Gospel of John series #1
The Logos
John 1:1-13

Sample questions for discussion:

Tom began the sermon by talking about the loss of their dog Gus and closed by returning to him as an imperfect but deeply loved member of the family. How does that image help you understand what it means that God gives "the right to become children of God" (vv. 12-13)? Where do you still struggle to believe that God's love is not based on your performance?

The sermon contrasted two ways people miss the Logos: outright opposition/relativism ("everyone determines their own truth") and moralism (trying to keep a code that either crushes or produces pride). Which of these two tendencies do you more easily recognize in the culture around you? Which do you more easily recognize in yourself?

John says the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome (or comprehended) it. Where have you seen the light of Christ still shining despite cultural rejection or personal confusion? Where do you currently feel the darkness pressing hardest?

Verse 13 stresses that this new birth is "not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." How does this truth both humble us and give us profound security? What happens when we forget that our status as children is God's work rather than ours?

Where are you currently tempted to measure your standing with God by your spiritual effort, consistency, or usefulness? What would it look like to rest in the fact that you have already been given the right to be a child?

Verse 12 links "receiving him" with "believing in his name" and receiving the right to become children of God. What does "believing in his name" look like in everyday life – beyond a one-time decision? How is this different from simply agreeing that Jesus is important or trying harder to be moral?

John's stated purpose (20:31) is that we "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing [we] may have life in his name." After hearing this prologue, what is one specific way you want to respond?

Note: I don't imagine you can use all of this. Feel free to pick and choose, or to adapt/supplement.

-Tom