The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14-18 (ESV)
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. 15 (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.' " ) 16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

God wrapped Himself in flesh

The author of Life was born

The Bread of Life was hungry

The Living water was thirsty

God learned, took a bath and sweat

God got tired, cooked and built with His hands

He dealt with the human nature / He was tempted

Rest Himself slept

He got treat like a man / child

The Prince of Peace got punched, mocked and whipped

The Lover of our souls got spit on

The author of Life/God died – for us on purpose!

John 1:14 (ESV)
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.

1 John 1:1-3 (ESV)
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - 3 that which we have seen and heard
we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was born, he was not part man and part God; he was completely human and completely divine.

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)
For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Before Christ came, people could know God partially. After Christ had come, people could know God fully because He became visible and tangible.

God took on flesh, so that flesh could take on God!

Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)
Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Christ is the perfect expression of God in human form. The two most common errors that people make about Jesus are minimizing His humanity or minimizing His divinity.

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
By becoming human, Christ became:

The perfect teacher - in Jesus' life we see how God thinks and therefore how we should think.

The perfect example - as a model Jesus shows us how to live and gives us the power to live that way.

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)
For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

The perfect sacrifice - Jesus came as a sacrifice for all sins, and His death satisfied God's requirements for the removal of sin.

Colossians 1:19-22 (ESV)
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

John 1:14 (ESV)
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.

1 John 1:1-3
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Big Idea:

In Christ, God came to meet with people; through Christ we can come to meet with God.

John 1:14 (ESV)
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.

This "glory" is often called the "shekinah glory" because shekinah means "in the tent"—"glory in the tent." (Moses) **Glory** refers to Christ's divine greatness and shining moral splendor.
**John 2:11 (ESV)**
This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and *manifested his glory*. And his disciples believed in him.

This is perhaps the clearest example of what John was thinking when he and two other disciples saw Jesus' transfiguration. Peter spoke of it specifically in -

**2 Peter 1:16-18 (ESV)**
For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were *eyewitnesses of his majesty*. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

**John 1:15 (ESV)**
(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.’ ”)

**John 1:16 (ESV)**
And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. *(a continual supply of Christ's loving-kindness)*

**John 1:16 (AMP)**
For out of His *fullness* (abundance) we have all received *[all had a share and we were all supplied with]* one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift *[heaped]* upon gift.

When John spoke of Jesus' "fullness," he was affirming that he had never found Jesus lacking in any way. John's description conveys a subtle invitation for us to trust Jesus' ability to meet our needs.

Christ embodies the fullness of God

**Colossians 2:9 (ESV)**
For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

**Paul's prayer - Ephesians 3:19 (ESV)**
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God*.

Christ embodies all of God's power, wisdom, mercy, and love. He fills everything in every way. The infinite God allows us to draw on all of His attributes and resources through the Holy Spirit.
All believers receive Christ's fullness, but no single believer can receive all of Christ; it takes the whole body of Christ to appropriate His fullness and to express it.

Nothing can deplete Christ—no matter how much the believers receive of Him, He keeps on giving. His strength is not diminished by helping us. Believers do not need to seek any other source of spiritual power but Christ.

Christ is always present to fill us with His grace.

**John 1:17 (ESV)**
For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**John 1:18 (ESV)**
No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**John 14:8-9 (ESV)**
Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

This tells us that the Son is God's explainer; he came to earth and lived among men to explain God to us—with his words and by his person.

*No one can know God apart from Christ, God's explainer. The WORD!*