JOHN 1.1-28
Reflection Guide

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you experienced a new beginning, a fresh start? If so, briefly describe it.

2. Why do you think John opens his Gospel with the words *In the beginning*? What other book of the Bible begins that way?

3. The prologue (vv. 1-18) has been called *John's Christmas Carol*. What elements of the Christmas story are missing?

4. Why do you think John omits these details about Jesus' birth? What does John want us to know about Jesus' existence (see vv. 1-2)?

5. If you have more than one version of the Bible, fill in the following verse with the different verbs you find: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness _____it" (v.5)

6. What relationship is there between John the Baptist and Jesus (vv. 6-8; 15; 19-28). Why do you think the Gospel writer wants to make this relationship clear from the outset (see Matthew 14.1-2; Mark 8.27-28; Acts 19.1-7)?

7. Name someone whom you consider a faithful witness to Christ. This could be someone you know personally or someone who has impressed you from history or who is having an impact on the world today. Be ready to explain your choice.

8. How would you compare the passion of John the Baptist to your own passion to introduce people to Christ?

9. What differences are there between John's baptism and the baptism we practice in the church today?

10. Write down some phrases from this opening section (vv. 1-28) that describe Jesus?

11. Which of the above most puzzle you? Which of the above most inspire you?

12. What do you hope to get out of our study of John's Gospel?