

John 1:1-18

Get to Know Jesus; Read the Gospel of John

About the book of John: The apostle John begins by declaring that Jesus is the Word of God who had become embodied as a human-being to be *the way, the truth and life for the world* (14:6). He declares that Jesus is the Son of God and has been sent from the Father. Jesus is God's own glory made visible ("Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," 14:9).

- As you begin this study, what details do you recall (political climate, key encounters, etc.) from John's Gospel?

- John writes as a first-hand eyewitness testifying to the ministry of Jesus and the truth of His message (John 19:35). John clearly states his purpose for this book in 20:31: "*that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*"

A series of "I am" declarations are spoken by Jesus reminding us of His Father's words, and that He and the Father are One.

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." - Exodus 3:14

"I am the bread of life"... - John 6:35

"I am the light of the world" - John 8:12; 9:5

"I am the gate" - John 10:7,9

"I am the way and the truth and the life" - John 14:6

"I am the good shepherd" - John 10:14

"I am the vine" - John 15:1,5

"I am the resurrection and the life" - John 11:25

"I and the Father are one." - John 10:30

Look up: John 8:58

Read 1:1-9 *The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.* (John 1:14)

v. 1 - *In the beginning* refers to the timeless eternity of Genesis 1:1. John essentially says, "When the beginning began, the Word was already there." The Word predates time or creation.

Jewish teachers referred to God in terms of *His Word*. "Word" translated in the ancient Greek is *Logos*, and was used by ancient Jews to refer to "*the being*" (or *character*) of God Himself. In Exodus 33:18, Moses asked God to show him His glory. In response, the Lord proclaimed His very character. Look up: Exodus 34:5-7

v. 3-4 - The *Logos* created all created-things. The Word is the source of all life. This word "life" (v.4) is from the Greek word "*zoe*", which is translated: "*the life principle*"; not *bios*, which is mere biological life. Look up: Colossians 1:16.

As we begin this study in the book of John, jump to John 1:14 to fully appreciate v.1-3.

v.4-5 - What two characteristics does the Word have according to these verses? Look up: John 14:6, John 8:12

Suppose a friend asks whether Jesus was eternal or was a created being. How could you use John 1 to answer the question? Look up: 1 John 1-2

v.5 - Without Jesus we are dead and in darkness. Look up: John 3:19-21

v. 6-8 - Define "witness"; Who was this witness? The words "witness," and "testimony," are noted repeatedly throughout John's Gospel. What does this tell you about the purpose of John's book?

Read 1:10-18

v.10-11 - These verses describe the shame of this book. Jesus was unrecognized and unwelcomed by His own people.

v. 10-13 - Although the entire old testament points to the coming of Jesus, even God's chosen people rejected Him. Those who receive Him (v.12) are born through a new birth, not of heritage but of the Spirit.

v.14 - This verse often flies off our tongue, but take some time to discuss and break it down. Look up: 1 Timothy 3:16

v.15-17 - The one announced by John the Baptist (Jesus Christ) is the Word made flesh. He brings a different order than the one instituted by Moses (*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*). It is an awesome display of grace, contrasting with an order of rigid laws given in the Old Testament. Look up: Colossians 2:13-14

v.18 - God communicated through various people in the Old Testament, usually prophets who were told to give a specific message. Some might have seen heavenly visions (or manifestations) of God, after the pattern of Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1. But no one has ever seen the face of God (Exodus 33:20-23, John 6:46, 1 John 4:12).

Through Jesus, God revealed His very nature and essence in a way that could be seen and touched (Matthew 9:20, Matthew 14:36). In Christ, God became a man who lived on earth. Look up: Hebrews 2:14,17,18