

Advent “Jesus is the Word”

John 1:1-2

November 26, 2023

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 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 For 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.

John 1:1-3

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John hopes that what we understand at the beginning would change everything.

Colossians 1:16-17

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.

New creation.

Logos.

That which orders life is not a principle but a person.

“The Word was *with* God”

“The Word was God”

Hebrews 1:1-2

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.

The Word is expressive.

The Word is God's ultimate insight into who He is and His purposes.

1 John 1:1-4

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. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

God has always been like Jesus.

In Jesus, God has spoken to us in the most human and personal way possible.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Why do you think John gives us the full identity of Jesus in the first few verses, why not a later reveal of Jesus' identity in his gospel?
- 3.) How does "In the beginning" connect with the Hebrew reader? What could John be saying about re-creation?
- 4.) How does the "Word" or "logos" appeal to the Greek reader? What connection is John making between the world's order and design, and the person of Jesus.
- 5.) If Jesus is the ultimate "word" of God, then what are we learning about God through the Son? In other words, how does Jesus help us know God? Why can't we really know God apart from Jesus?
- 6.) Is it a new idea for you that God has always been like Jesus? How does Jesus "in the beginning" help us maintain that the God of Old and New Testament is the same God?
- 7.) How does Jesus' identity impact the significance of the cross?
- 8.) Spend a few moments discussing how the deity and divinity of Jesus can heighten the meaning and excitement of Christmas.