

THIS IS LIFE

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
THE BOOK OF JOHN

Week 2 – John chapter 1

Behold His Glory!

Who is Jesus? Why has He come? What does He bring to us? Down through the course of history, many have mistakenly assumed that Jesus was merely a wise human teacher—simply a *good man* whose life is an example to us of gentleness and compassion. As you read the gospel of John, you will see that Jesus is infinitely greater than that.

Jesus is Light in the darkness. Jesus is the source of Life. Jesus is the Savior of the world.

The gospel of John presents a distinctive portrait of the *identity* of Jesus as the eternal **Son of God**. Jesus is fully God and yet also has become fully human in order to bring salvation to those He loves.

In this account of Jesus' life, the apostle John teaches us *who Jesus is*.

As we study this book, we will see

- Who Jesus is—as revealed by His *sign* miracles
- Who Jesus is—as revealed by His teaching
- Who Jesus is—as revealed by His death and resurrection

Jesus is God the Son; He brings life and light

1. **John's purpose in writing this book:** Near the end of the book of John, the apostle explains the purpose of his writing and why he included the particular miracles he chose to record. What is John's purpose for writing this book? (John 20:30-31)

2. Read John 1:1-5

Jesus is the Word of God

The term **Word** is the English translation of the Greek term *logos*, which refers to God's revelation of Himself—not merely His spoken words, but also His creative work, His wisdom, and the perfection of His character. In referring to Jesus as the **Word** of God, John is proclaiming that Jesus reveals **God** to us. Jesus is fully God in His authority, perfection, and power. Jesus is the perfection of God in *human* form.

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John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”*

The first verse of the gospel of John speaks of a time *“in the beginning.”* This phrase would have been instantly recognized by Jews of the first century as referring to the first sentence in the Bible, Genesis 1:1.

- a. What was the time of *“the beginning”* spoken of in John 1:1-2? (See Genesis 1:1)
- b. What is the relationship of *the Word* to God? (John 1:1-2)
- c. What do you discover about the created universe in John 1:3?
- d. According to John 1:4-5, what does the coming of *the Word* bring to us?
- e. What do you learn about Jesus from these additional passages?
 - i. Colossians 1:19-20
 - ii. Hebrews 1:2-3

3. Read John 1:6-18

Jesus reveals the glory of God

- a. *For deeper thought:* In John 1:1-18, the terms *life*, *light*, and *darkness* refer to spiritual realities. What is your understanding of these terms?
 - i. *Spiritual life* –
 - ii. *Spiritual light* –
 - iii. *Spiritual darkness* –
- b. Why is much of our world continuing in spiritual darkness? (John 3:19)
- c. How is spiritual darkness overcome and dispelled by Jesus' *light*? (John 12:46)

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- d. What was the world's response to the coming of the **Word** of God? (John 1:9-11)
- e. What stunning privilege is offered to those who believe in Him? (John 1:12-13)
- f. What is the definition of the word *glory*?
- g. Consider the astonishing claims that are given in verses 1:14 and 1:18. How does the *glory* of Jesus teach us about God?
- h. *For personal reflection:* Read and reflect on this famous summary of the importance of Jesus and His enduring impact on our world.

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant girl. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant teacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave through the kindness of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he remains the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of all human progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, all put together, have not affected the life of man on this planet as much as that one solitary life.

– Unknown author

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4. Read John 1:19-34

Jesus is the Lamb of God

In the Old Testament, God's people were instructed to bring a lamb as a typical sacrificial offering so that the people could be forgiven of sin and brought near to God. A sacrifice was required in order for man to have forgiveness and fellowship with God.

- a. What does John the Baptist proclaim about Jesus in John 1:29?
- b. Why was John the Baptist baptizing with water? (John 1:30-31)
- c. What does John the Baptist proclaim about Jesus in John 1:32-34?

5. Read John 1:35-51

Jesus invites us to follow Him

As people heard about Jesus and became curious about Him, Jesus invited them to come with Him and learn from Him. He called them to follow Him and to be with Him. John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael responded to Jesus and chose to follow Him. These men became *disciples*—drawing close to Jesus and learning from Him.

- a. What is Jesus' plan and purpose for those who follow Him? (read John 17:24-26)
- b. *For personal reflection:* As we study the book of John, we will see that Jesus invites **all** people to follow Him—to draw close to Him and learn from Him. What would a decision to *follow* Jesus mean for your life right now?

*Jesus is the Son of God
Who brings light and life
into the darkness of this world*