



## Jesus: The Word of God before Time *John 1:1-5*

### Getting Started:

Why would an almighty, invisible God go through the ordeal of expressing Himself to His creation through His Son?

What does this say about the nature and heart of our God?

### Digging In:

1. What are words? We use them all the time. You are reading or listening to someone read these words, but what are they? They are visual manifestations of an invisible idea, or a perceivable sound that represents an otherwise unperceivable thought. Look up *Colossians 3:15* and then look again at *John 1:1* and discuss the following question: **“Why do you think John chose to refer to Jesus as “the Word” rather than some other title or name?”**
2. **Why does John, speaking of Jesus as the Word, say that all things were made “through Him” rather than “by Him”?** *Genesis 1:1* starts with the exact same words as *John 1:1*; “*In the beginning...*” Note also that *Genesis 1* often repeats the expression “*and God said...*” Discuss whether John’s use of “the Word” is an effort to connect Jesus with the speaking of God in *Genesis 1*, then talk about how that might affect our understanding of the role Jesus played in creation.
3. **In what way was there “life” in Him (the Word)?** It is not simply speaking of the word being alive, but rather has a deeper meaning. Look up *John 5:24-26* to add to your discussion, as well as *Philippians 2:16* and *1 John 1:1*, which refer to the “word of life.”



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4. **How was the “life” of the “word” the “light” of men?** (John has a knack for stating something very simply that has profound meaning.) Look up *Acts 13:46-48* and see how these three terms (life, word, and light) are used in order to fill out your discussion.

5. **When John says “the light shines in the darkness” what is the word “darkness” referring to?** Look up *John 3:19-21, 8:12, and 12:35-46* as well as *1 John 1:5-6 and 2:8-11* to see more of John’s use of the light vs. darkness metaphor. If you have time you can also look up some of the following passages to enrich your discussion: *Matthew 4:15-16, Luke 1:76-79 and 22:53, John 3:19, Acts 26:16-18, 2 Corinthians 4:6, and Ephesians 5:6-14.*

6. The last phrase of verse five could either be translated along the lines of “the darkness did not overcome it” (ESV, NIV, NLT, ASV) or “the darkness did not comprehend it” (NAS, NKJ). *John 12:35* seems to support the first option, while *John 3:19-21* seems to support the second. **Which version do you think best fits the context, and how did this play out in the actual events of Christ’s life?**

### Living It Out:

1. When you think of your walk with the Lord, how has the role Jesus plays as “the Word” been experienced in your relationship with him?
2. Similarly, has your understanding of Jesus truly felt like it was a source of life in your everyday walk? If your answer is “yes” then explain how. If your answer is “not really” then think of why it hasn’t.
3. How has the effect of Jesus as the Word and source of life been similar to a light shining in the darkness of this world, or shining into the darkness of this life.

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