

# THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

## Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

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### Lesson 2: The Word is Jesus

#### INTRODUCTION

John does not begin his Gospel with a manger, a genealogy, or a birth announcement — he begins before time itself. In these opening verses, we are taken behind the curtain of history to see who Jesus truly is, why He came, and what His coming means for the world. John presents Jesus not merely as a teacher or miracle worker, but as the eternal Word, the Creator of all things, the true Light shining into human darkness, and God Himself stepping into our world in human flesh.

In just eighteen verses, John answers life's biggest questions — Who is Jesus? Where did He come from? Why did He come? and What does His coming mean for me? — making this one of the most profound and compelling introductions in the entire Bible.

#### JOHN 1:1-18 (NIV)

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*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*

*9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He*

*who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.") 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and1 is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. John 1:1 — What does "Word" (Greek: *Logos*) mean and why is Jesus called the *Logos*?  
(Hint: see "What is the *Logos*" at GotQuestions.org [What is the \*Logos\*? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org/What-is-the-Logos/))
2. John 1:5 — What do "light" and "darkness" mean?
3. John 1:8–9 — How is "light" used for John and for Jesus?
4. John 1:10–11 — Who are "his own people," and how did they respond to Jesus?
5. John 1:14 — What does the word "incarnation" mean, and how does it relate to this verse?

6. John 1:18 — What significant role does Jesus fulfill?

## **APPLICATION**

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Many people respect Jesus without surrendering to Him—and believers can fall into a similar pattern. This lesson challenges us to examine whether Jesus is simply *influential* in our lives or truly our *Lord*.