

A STUDY FOR WOMEN • A STUDY FOR WOMEN • A STUDY FOR WOMEN

THE WORD

THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN

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When I first sat down to map out this year's study for John, it took me weeks to get past John 1:1-18. In truth, I couldn't get past the first few verses. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God..."* This first verse resonated in my mind. What was John's understanding of Jesus that he would refer to Him as "the Word"? What does it mean that the Word was with God and the Word was God? In Women's Discipleship we spend a lot of time talking about studying the Word of God. We teach you how to open your Bibles and see the truths of who Jesus is on a regular basis. But as I read through John 1 repetitively, the Word took on new meaning.

My prayer for you as we take a look at the Word in the next few weeks is to grow deeper in your love and understanding of the Word. We will learn what we have through the tangible written Word, as well as the tangible spoken Word and the Word, dwelling among us.





The WORD is a 4 week study on the Prologue of the gospel of John found in John 1:1-18. In the back of this Workbook you will find a BIBLE WORKSHEET that gives you a loose structure for your study. This is a method of Bible Study you can use to approach any passage any time, not just for this study. Each week you will have 4 days of study—structure your time in the Word as works best for you. If it works better for you to stretch the days into 5 or 6 sessions, go for it! Just give yourself time to read and contemplate the work so you are ready for discussion!

In the next four weeks we will be unpacking the powerful meaning of The Word putting on flesh and dwelling among us. As we start, I want to challenge you to enter into your time everyday prayerfully and expectantly! As we come to God's Word daily and ask Him to reveal Himself, I trust He will be gracious and faithful to do it!

WEEK 01

Notes



DAY 01

Introduction | The Word



JOHN 1:1-18 | As you read, use a blue pen or pencil to circle the word *Word*.



"For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, so my word that comes from my mouth will nor return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do."

Before we dive into the prologue from John 1, we need to take a look at the word *Word*. John refers to Jesus as the Word in his prologue. It's a phrase we don't often use when we are talking about Jesus. We talk a lot about God's Word—but we often mean the Bible, the written Word. Why would John use this title specifically? As we study this text, we will hopefully see a deeper meaning behind not only God's written Word, but Jesus as God's self-expression and revelation. As one commentator puts it, "The Word is the self revelation of God to us—Jesus is everything God wants to say about Himself."

In the Old Testament, it was through God's word that He created, gave us His Law and expressed His possession of us and promises to us. As we open the New Testament we see Jesus, the incarnate Word—tangible, visible, audible (Hebrews 1:1-2). In Jesus, all of God's promises find their yes (2 Corinthians 1:20). He is the perfect fulfillment and only perfect keeper of the Law (Matthew 5:17), and His Word is the only way that creation can be re-created and born again to eternal life. The word in the Old Testament is just a shadow of the incarnate Word to come. Jesus is not just a new form of revelation. He is the fulfillment of all revelation, past, present and future. Hence His title "the Word."



What do you think is the significance of the title "The Word"? Why do you think John uses this phrase to describe Jesus in the opening of his book?

The Word to meditate on today:

"The Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is the Word! The self-expression of God.

DAY 02

All Things



John 1:1-4 | Genesis 1:1-5 | Psalm 33:4-9 | Colossians 1:16-17



"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible."

Q

List everything we learn about Jesus from the first 4 verses of John 1. Do any of them confuse you? What questions does this passage raise for you?

Q

What parallels do you see between John and Genesis?

Q

It may be right in front of you, but how did God create the heavens and the earth?

The Word to meditate on today:

"All things were made through Him." God made everything we know with the Word.

DAY 03

An Eternal Title



John 8:58 | Exodus 3:11-15 | Exodus 33:12-34:9 | Revelation 1:8



"I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say [is my name]:

I AM...Say this: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—this is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation."

Q

According to these passages, what is God's name? How does He refer to Himself?

The Hebrew name for God in the Old Testament was Yahweh. In our English versions of the Bible we see it in the form of all caps, LORD. Yahweh is derived from the phrase, "I AM".

Q

In John we learn that the Word was God and the Word was *with* God. Write a definition of the word *with*. What do you think John wants you to understand from the statements "was God" and "was with God" ?

Q

In today's reading we see a connection of eternity. Go back through the passages and take note of the phrases or words used that indicate God's eternal existence. List them and their references below.

The Word to meditate on today:

"In the beginning was the Word." God has always existed and He holds all things together with His Word.

DAY 04

Reflect



Re-read John 1:1-18 and reflect on your studies this week.

JOURNAL • MY PRAYER

Take time today to reflect on what you have learned from Scripture this week. Journal some thoughts or questions you have. Then finish your time journaling a prayer to the Word. What do you want to share with Him in light of what you've learned?

This week, one truth I have meditated on is:

Because of this truth, how will you worship Jesus this week?

WEEK 02

Notes



DAY 01

Light Is Life



John 1:5-13 | As you read, use a yellow pen or pencil to circle *light*.



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path."

Have you ever tried to conceal light? It's fairly impossible! Light, when ignited, shines in the darkness, gives us guidance and helps us to see. This week we are looking at the light that shines into darkness. As John uses the terms *light* and *darkness*, we will see the parallels between the light spoken into darkness from creation, and the light that enters the world—darkened by sin and death.

Light and darkness are themes you see throughout the book of John, not only in the prologue. We'll be turning to much of the rest of John for depth this week. Pray that God would be a light to your path as you look at His Word.

1 John 1:5-7 | John 3:19-21 | 8:12 | 12:35-36, 44-46 | 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Q

What is the connection between light and life in these passages? Why do you think John uses this imagery to explain Jesus entering humanity?

Q

How does light bring life? In John 8:12, what does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

Q

Why are people resistant to the light? How have you feared the light of life in your own life, afraid of what it might expose? What are the dangers of continuing to walk in darkness?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word is my guide for life!" When I walk in the light, I can see clearly and know that I am walking toward life.

DAY 02

The Darkness Of The World



John 1:8-11 | John 18:36-37 | 1 John 2:16 | John 16:33 As you read today, mark every time you see the word *world* with a brown pen or pencil.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Q

Describe the contrasts and friction that light and darkness have.

Q

Jesus, the light of life, came into the world in more ways than one. Yes, He came as a man *into* the world. But what point do you think John is trying to make with this passage? Take another look at 1 John 2:16 for your answer.

Q

What effects of darkness mark your world? They may be from your own personal sin patterns, or the repercussions of others. How does John 1 give you hope in the darkness? See John 16:33 as well.

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word has overcome the world!" I can have hope because the light shines brighter than the darkness.

DAY 03

Children Of God



John 1:12-13 | James 1:16-18 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 15:17-18 | Romans 8:14-17



"For you are all children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness."

Q

This week we have focused on the darkness of the world and its need for light for hope and life. What is the first word in verse 12? Use a bright highlighter to mark this word. What hope does this word bring?

Q

How does one receive the right to become a child of God? Who gives that right? What does Romans 8 say about those who are children of God?

Q

Rewrite Ephesians 5:8-14 in your own words. What are the instructions for the children of light?

The Word to meditate on today:

"I am a child of God through the Word!" I can live in the light and bear fruit because I am a joint-heir with Christ!

DAY 04

Reflect



Re-read John 1:1-18 and reflect on your studies this week.

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Take time today to reflect on what you have learned from Scripture this week. Journal some thoughts or questions you have. Then finish your time journaling a prayer to the Word. What do you want to share with Him in light of what you've learned?

This week, one truth I have meditated on is:

Because of this truth, how will you worship Jesus this week?

WEEK 03

Notes



DAY 01

In Plain Sight

WEEK 03 • SEEN AND HEARD

John 1:1-18

PSALM 19:1-2 • PSALM 19:1-2

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge."

Have you ever had to physically describe God? Ever tried to imagine Him? As we will learn this week, Scripture tells us that no one has seen God. They can't, lest they be burned to death. God's glory is great and holy, and as mankind we are not capable of His presence. Yet in John 1 we see that God has made Himself seen and heard.

While you are reading through the passages this week, look for ways God has revealed Himself in ways that humanity can encounter. Let it stir a gratitude and praise in your heart. How has He revealed Himself to you?

John 1:1-5, 10 | Romans 1:19-20

Q

What was the first way that God revealed Himself and His works to man?

Q

Do you see the evidence of God in your daily life, through nature and the miracle of life? How has He revealed Himself to you?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word makes Himself known in creation!" I can be aware of His presence in every moment!

DAY 02

There Is A Witness



John 1:6-7 | John 1:19-34, 3:27-30, 5:32-40, 8:13-18, 10:40-42, 5:36, 10:25, 12:17, 18:37 | Hebrews 11:1-2



"He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him."



Have you ever been an eye witness? What is the significance and purpose of the testimony of someone who has seen something with their own eyes?



Throughout the book of John there are five significant witnesses. Can you list them? Is there any one of these testimonies that you would doubt? Why or why not?



What ways can you bear witness of Jesus? What will you do with your encounter with the Word?

The Word to meditate on today:

"I can have faith because of the tangible evidence of the Word!" God has made himself known in tangible ways that can be seen and heard!

DAY 03

The Exact Expression



John 1:14-18 | Exodus 24:17 | Exodus 33:20-23 | John 6:46 | Hebrews 1:1-3



"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature."

Q

How would you define *glory*? Look up the word and write a definition that you think is closest to how it is used in these verses.

Q

How do these passages help you understand God's holiness?

Q

In Exodus we learn that the glory of God is so fierce that man cannot be in His presence. We have also learned that Jesus *is* God—His exact expression. How do these truths deepen your worship of Him?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word is the exact expression of God!" Because of His self-revelation, I can see a glimpse of the glory of God.

DAY 04

Reflect



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WEEK 04

Notes



DAY 01

Word In Flesh



John 1:14a



*"Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them
They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God."*

This is our last week in the Prologue of John. I think it's incredibly fitting to end here as we head into the Christmas season, looking at the Word become flesh. This is the time of year we remember Jesus coming down to earth in the form of a baby. We celebrate this miracle year after year, and sometimes the magnitude of it can get lost in the repetition, traditions and gatherings. As we meditate on the truth of God the Son entering our messy, broken world with the intention of dwelling among us, take the time to slow down and take in the meaning of this season and how the gospel burst into the world with the birth of a baby boy in a stable.

Exodus 25:8, 29:46 | Luke 2 | Philippians 2:6-7 | Hebrews 4:14-16



*"Jesus Christ, though in the form of God, did not count equality
with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a
servant, being born in the likeness of men."*



How do you feel about your "flesh", your body? Whether you evaluate your image, size, health or abilities, for what reasons, if you could, would you "opt out" of humanity?



Take a few minutes to consider Jesus, who from the beginning had perfect communion with God as God, holding the universe in His hand, leaving His heavenly home to dwell in the flesh. Write a few sentences about this reality.



Why do you think God has chosen to dwell among us? How does His intention to be with humanity affect your relationship with Him?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word left heaven to become like me!" He understands everything I am going through.

DAY 02

From His Fullness



John 1:14b, 16 | John 17:5,24 | Ephesians 3:16-19



"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."



What is the glory of Jesus full of? Have you ever heard these two attributes used together? Write some ways that grace vs. truth could cause conflict. Why is it necessary to have them both?



What does it mean to give to someone from their fullness? Consider the relationships you have. How do you give or does someone else give to you from their fullness?



What is the evidence of God's glory dwelling in you? What is the promise of God's dwelling with us even now?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word has shown me His glory!" From His fullness He grants me access.

DAY 03

Made Known



John 1:17-18 | Matthew 1:22-23 | 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 | John 14:23, 25-27



"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."



How does Jesus make God known? Recall last week's study of God's glory and our inability to see Him. What has Jesus done for us in making God known?



From the passage in 2 Corinthians, how do you see the theme of light and darkness incorporated into the knowledge of God?



Jesus has promised His Holy Spirit to make His home with us. What does He tell us in John 14 that the Spirit will do for us? What are some promise He makes?

The Word to meditate on today:

"the Word has made Himself known!" He is with me forever!

DAY 04

Reflect



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Because of this truth, how will you worship Jesus this week?

BIBLE WORKSHEET

PRAY

Praise Praise God for His Word and the revelation of truth through the Bible. Praise Him for how He has already revealed Himself to you through His Word.

Admit Admit your need for the Spirit to help you discern and learn from the Word. Confess your insecurities, your lack of understanding, any sin that may hinder your study...any lack of desire or joy in approaching His Word.

Request Ask God for increased understanding, ears to hear and eyes to see. Ask Him to guard your time. Ask for Him to reveal more of Himself to you, and a clearer picture of yourself. Ask for boldness to submit and obey to His Word.

Thank Him For what He has already revealed. For His gift of saving grace through Jesus.

LOOK | What does it say?

What is the passage?

Context - What is happening in and around this passage?

Key Characters - Who is represented in this passage?

What repeating themes, words, key phrases do you see?

Read the passage in another translation. How did that translation help you understand the text deeper?

What words do you need to look up? List them and their definitions.

DIG | What does it mean?

Paraphrase or outline the passage (or both).

Summarize the main point in 1 - 2 sentences.

Where do you see gospel language in this passage?

List any other passages that come to mind or are pointed to from this text.

GROW | How should this change me?

What does this passage teach you about God?

How does this aspect of God's character change your view of self?

What do you need to do in response? List one next step of obedience to God's Word.

Because I know God/Jesus is _____ I know/am/am able to _____ .

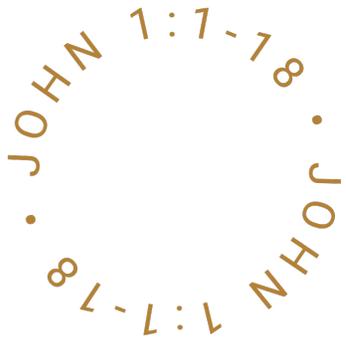
PRAY

Praise Take some time to meditate on what God has shown you in His Word.

Admit Confess any sin that He has revealed to you during your time with Him.

Request Ask for help in applying the Word to your life.

Thank Him For what He has revealed.



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.