

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

WEEK ONE: JESUS IS THE WORD

READING

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, YOU CAN READ THE UNDERLINED PORTIONS ONLY

1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. 6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John 1 (NLT)

TEACHING

John describes Jesus as “the Word.” What does this mean?

You and I use words to share information, to describe things and to express our thoughts and feelings. You might use your words to tell mom or dad about something that happened at school. You could use your words to tell your sister how excited you are about making a new friend. Words also help us let people know we are confused, sad or scared. Sometimes we use our words in kind ways and sometimes we use them in ways that hurt others. Words are powerful.

God's words are different from our words. Our words can be careless and useless, but God's words are always intentional and useful. God's word has the power to create something from nothing, to bring life to our hearts and to make amazing things happen! God's words are never empty and they never fail. God's words are also full of perfect wisdom and truth. All of these truths are found in Jesus, the Word. Jesus came not just to speak words, but to be the Word. Jesus was everything God wanted to say to the world in a person! That's why John says that Jesus is the Word.

RESPONSE

OPENING QUESTION(S):

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

- What is your favorite word to use when you are excited? Why?
- What word do you use too much?

TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who is THE WORD?
- What is one thing you learned about Jesus today?

CHILDREN:

- Who is THE WORD?
- How are our words different than God's words?
- What is one thing you learned about Jesus today? What does that mean to you?

TEENAGERS:

- What did you learn about Jesus today?
- According to this Scripture passage, what is one thing Jesus has done for you? What does that mean to you?
- This passage teaches that Jesus gave us both natural life and eternal life. What other explanations are given for the existence of life? What other explanations are given for hope beyond this life? How are those different from what John 1 teaches?

ADULTS:

- How does receiving the unfailing love of Jesus give me the motivation and power to speak and show love to others? My spouse? My children? What is my next step?

PRAYER

God, thank you that you sent Jesus to speak truth to our hearts. Thank you for your love that never quits and never gives up. Help me to believe your truth and to receive your love. And help me to share this with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

In John 1, we learn three important things about Jesus, the Word.

- 1) Jesus is the eternal God who created this world (v. 1-3). Jesus has no beginning and no end – he is eternal. Jesus was not created by God – Jesus is God! He was at work in creation.
- 2) Jesus came to this world to make us children of God (v. 10-11). Although the people he came to save rejected him, some did believe in him and accept him. God adopts those who believe in Jesus into his family – they become his children!
- 3) Jesus is full of a love that never quits and never gives up (v.14). Jesus loves you and will continue to love you every day of your life. His love can fill your heart and change your life.