

April 16, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel of John // S1 E2 Word Up
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Understanding the Gospel of John

- John was a disciple of Jesus, known as the one Jesus loved and part of the three disciples closest to Jesus. He was also the author of Revelation and the only apostle not to be martyred.
- John's gospel includes 21 chapters and begins with a carefully designed theological prologue which places Jesus within a cosmic context.

John's gospel is chiseled out of the rock of the Genesis creation narrative.
In his dramatic opening, John attempts to do the following:

1. **Harken his readers back to the creation narrative in hopes of espousing a new creation.**
2. **Introduce Jesus into that narrative in the form of an all-inclusive WORD, who was with God and is God.**

1. Harken his readers back to the creation narrative in hopes of espousing a new creation.

Vs. 1 *In the **beginning** was the Word.*

- **John harkens back to the Genesis 1 creation narrative.**
 - *In the **beginning** God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit** of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*
 - **What keywords are used in both John 1 and Genesis 1?** Beginning—Created—Made—Darkness—Light

2. John introduces Jesus into the narrative in the form of an all-inclusive WORD, who was with God and is God.

- Greek (Logos) A word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea.
- In John 1:1 Logos is first used to espouse the idea of totality.
- John 1 also introduces the idea of the Trinity.

Practical Takeaways:

1. Words matter and are a creative force of life.
2. Words have the power to create order.

Small Group Questions:

1. John describes Jesus as the Word. Why would he use that term and what are the implications?
2. John says that Jesus was the Word that was with God and was God in the beginning. Why would he begin his gospel with this analogy? How does it set up the rest of the gospel?
3. John says that "through him all things were made". Does seeing Jesus in the light of being the creator have any practical implications for our day to day following Jesus?
4. One of the takeaways was that words have the power to bring order. How have your words created order or disorder in your life?
5. Jesus is often seen as a personal version of God, but in the John 1 passage, he is set in a cosmic context. What is the value in experiencing him as both in our faith walk?