

LESSON 1

Believe and Have Life

The Gospel of John

John 1:1–5

Read John 1:1–5.

1. Look up Genesis 1:1.
2. Turn back to John 1.
 - a. With what three words does John 1:1 begin?
 - b. What three words come next?
 - c. What do these six words begin to suggest about the Word?
3. What more do we learn about the Word in the second part of verse 1?
4. What is finally said point-blank in the third part of verse 1?
5. From a human perspective, is there anyone else who can both be with someone and at the same time be that someone?
6. Who is the Word? (1:14, 17–18; Heb. 1:1–3)
7. Skim Genesis 1:1–2:1.
 - a. In this account, how does God create? (Ps. 33:6)
 - b. What echoes of Genesis 1 do you see in John 1:1–5?
8. What critical new understanding of creation does John offer in verse 3? (1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15–17)
9. In verse 4 we learn that the Word is the source of what?

10. What kinds of life has Jesus provided?

a. verse 3

b. 3:16; 11:25

11. How does this theme of life connect with John's purpose for writing his gospel? (20:30–31)

Why do you think it's so important to have this life?

12. While John's mention of light and darkness in verses 4 and 5 echoes Genesis 1, more importantly it points ahead to the rest of the book.¹

a. What kinds of things are generally associated with light?

b. What kinds of things are generally associated with darkness?

c. What does Jesus say about himself in the following verses?

8:12

3:19-20

13. John writes at the end of verse 5 that the darkness has not "understood" (NIV) or "overcome" (ESV) the light. Because of Jesus' victory in his resurrection, light ultimately conquers darkness. What picture does John later give in Revelation of what Jesus' triumph means? (Rev. 21:1–4, 22–27)
