

- 4:28-30
- John 15

C. The Word and Darkness (1:5)

- i. John 8:12

- ii. John 9:5

- iii. John 12:35

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use personally and in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What is the primary background for John 1:1, “*In the beginning was the Word...*”? Explain and, if possible, illustrate from Scripture.
- What was the purpose of God's Word throughout the Old Testament? How does this come to its full fruition in Jesus?
- How is it that the Word was both God and with God?
- How might you answer a Jehovah's Witness if they were to say that John 1:1, because there isn't a definite article in front of theos (God) should be translated, “*the word was a god*”?
- How do Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, as well as Revelation 5:6 present the son of man, or Jesus, as both with God and equal with God?
- What was the very purpose for the Word being made flesh? What does this say to us about a key purpose for the Advent season in our own lives together as a church?
- How does John 1:3 tell us that the Gospel is relevant to everyone, whether believer or unbeliever, Jew or Gentile, male or female?
- What is the significance of John saying that the light **shines** (present tense when John wrote) in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it? What does that mean for us?

The Word Became Flesh (Part 1)

Jerry Cisar — December 4, 2016

Text: John 1:1-5, 14

Introduction – The Word Became Flesh (1:14)

I. The Word (1:1a)

A. *In the beginning was the Word...*

- i. The Word predates creation. (cmp. Genesis 1:1)

- ii. Genesis 1:1 deals with *what God did* at the beginning. John 1:1 deals with *who God was* at the beginning.

B. *In the beginning was the Word...*

a) Genesis 1!

- Psalm 32:6
- Psalm 106:20
- Isaiah 38:4

ii. What is meant by “the Word”?

- a) Since God speaks perfectly His thoughts, and His thoughts are perfect conceptions of Who He is, it is certainly true that God speaks what He is.

- b) In the advent of Jesus, God sends that Word, which is both God and with God, to become flesh so that He can be perfectly revealed to the world.

C. The incarnation is all about God revealing Himself to us!

II. The Word's Relationship to God (1b-2)

A. With God

- i. John 17:5

- ii. Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

- iii. Revelation 5:6

B. Was God

C.K. Barrett: *“John intends that the whole of his gospel shall be read in the light of this verse. The deeds and words of Jesus are the deeds and words of God; if this be not true the book is blasphemous.”*

- i. How can Jesus make mud, put it in a man's eyes, which were blind from birth, and make eyes that see? (John 9)

- ii. Why the Jehovah Witnesses are wrong when they claim it says, *“the Word was a god.”*
 - a) Not necessary to add the indefinite article.
 - b) Evidences in the same section of John
 - 1:12-13 God (theos) is used and in neither case has the definite article, yet no one could reasonably argue for translating it, *“a god.”*

c) *“The Word, the same one which was in the beginning, the same one which was with God, that Word was God.”*

C. With God

- i. This Word, who was God, was with God.

- ii. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the Word descended to earth. (Ephesians 4:9)

III. The Word's Relationship to Us (1:3-5)

A. The Word and Creation (1:3)

- i. *Through him all things were made;*

- ii. *...without him not even one thing was made.* (mine)
 - a) The Gospel is relevant for all people, whether Jew or Gentile, believer or non-believer, white or brown, Muslim, or atheist, because they were created through Jesus Christ—the One Who is the Word made flesh.
 - b) We must not be ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God!

B. The Word and Life (1:4)

- i. *What came to be in Him was life...*
 - a) Life, the very essence of what life is, came from Him. When we are apart from Him, we are dead.
 - John 11:25-26

- ii. *...and that life was the light of all mankind.*
 - a) That life in Him became light for mankind.

 - b) When this life became flesh, and gave life to others, they began to shine that light to others immediately.
 - 1:40-42