

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

SESSION 1 – THE WORD MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:1–18

SESSION FOCUS

The Gospel of John opens in a way unlike any other Gospel. Rather than beginning with Jesus' birth or ministry, John starts **before creation itself**. This opening invites readers to wrestle with a foundational question that shapes the entire Gospel: **Who is Jesus really?**

This session explores how John presents Jesus as **the eternal Word, the source of life, and God made visible**. The goal is not simply to gain information, but to reflect on how this truth invites a personal response of faith.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments before continuing. Consider the questions below honestly and without rushing.

- When you hear the name **Jesus**, what images or ideas immediately come to mind?
- Have you usually thought of Jesus more as a teacher, a miracle worker, a Savior, or something else?
- What questions or assumptions do you bring with you into this study?

(You may want to write a few notes before moving on.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **John 1:1–18** slowly. If possible, read it more than once.

As you read, pay attention to:

- Words or ideas that are repeated
- Descriptions John uses for Jesus
- Any phrases that surprise or challenge you

Do not rush. Let the language and imagery settle in.

KEY IDEA

John begins his Gospel by declaring that **Jesus is not merely a messenger from God**.

Jesus is the eternal Word—God Himself—who has come into the world to reveal life and light.

PART 1: IN THE BEGINNING—THE WORD



John opens with words that echo the opening of Scripture: **“In the beginning.”** Before creation, before history, **the Word already existed.**

John describes three essential truths about the Word:

- **The Word existed before creation**
- **The Word was with God**
- **The Word was God**

This means Jesus did not begin at His birth. He has always existed.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to you that Jesus existed before anything was created?
- How does this shape the way you think about His authority and identity?
- Why do you think John begins his Gospel this way?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: LIFE AND LIGHT

John describes Jesus as **the source of life** and **the light that shines in the darkness**. Darkness in Scripture often represents confusion, sin, brokenness, or separation from God.

Light does not argue with darkness—it simply **reveals**.

Reflection Questions

- Where do you see darkness in the world or in your own life?
- What does it mean that darkness cannot overcome the light?
- How does Jesus bring clarity, hope, or truth into dark places?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: REJECTION AND RESPONSE

John acknowledges a painful reality: **many people did not recognize or receive Jesus**, even though He created the world He entered.

Yet John also describes a powerful promise:

All who receive Him are given the right to become children of God.

Faith is not just knowing about Jesus—it is **receiving and trusting Him**.

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think people sometimes fail to recognize God at work?
- What does it mean to truly receive Christ rather than simply admire Him?
- How would you describe your own response to Jesus right now?



Personal Notes:

PART 4: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

This is the heart of the passage: **the Word became flesh and made His home among us.**

God did not remain distant. He entered human life fully—experiencing weakness, suffering, joy, and pain.

In Jesus, **God comes near.**

Reflection Questions

- What stands out to you about the idea that God became human?
- How does this change the way you think about God's closeness to you?
- Why is it meaningful that God chose to dwell among people?

Personal Notes:

SEEING GOD THROUGH JESUS

John concludes by making a bold claim: **Jesus reveals God to us.**

If we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus.

In Him we see:

- God's compassion
- God's holiness
- God's truth
- God's unfailing love

Reflection Questions

- What do you learn about God's character through Jesus in this passage?
- How does Jesus reshape your understanding of who God is?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few moments of quiet reflection.

- What truth about Jesus stands out to you most from this session?
- Where do you sense an invitation to trust, reflect, or respond?
- How might seeing Jesus as the Word made flesh shape your faith this week?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

In your own words, or silently, pray for:



- **Greater understanding of who Jesus is**
 - **Openness to God's presence in your life**
 - **Faith to receive Christ more fully**
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OPTIONAL TAKE-HOME PRACTICE

This week:

- Re-read **John 1:1–18** slowly
 - Notice how John describes Jesus in multiple ways
 - Reflect on this question: **What does it mean for me that God came near?**
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FINAL THOUGHT

John begins his Gospel with a powerful truth:

To know Jesus is to know God.

Everything that follows in the Gospel flows from this revelation—**God has stepped into the world, bringing life, light, and grace to all who receive Him.**

