



Scripture(s):

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² This one was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and apart from him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

~ John 1:1–5 (ESV)

Lesson Idea:

Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (the Logos) who is fully God, the agent of creation, the source of life, and the victorious light who cannot be overcome by darkness.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

John does not begin with Bethlehem, a genealogy, a manger, or wise men from the east. He begins before creation itself to answer the most important questions about Jesus: “Who is He?” “Where does he come from?” In Genesis, Adam’s story starts from the ground, but in John’s Gospel, Jesus’ story does not have a start; it is through him that God starts everything. In these opening verses, John presents Christ as the Logos; the eternal, divine, life-giving, Light that triumphs over the darkness.

I. The Word Is Eternal and God (vv. 1–2)

- A. John the Evangelist uses the Greek word *Logos* to _____ to the preincarnate Messiah Jesus.
- B. “In the beginning” (1:1a) echoes Genesis 1:1 but _____ the Word (*Gk Logos*) before all created things.
- C. The Word did not come into being; He already _____.
- D. John (1:1b) also says the Word was “with God,” showing both personal distinction from God the Father and _____ fellowship with God the Father.
- E. As the reader of the Gospel of John will discover, it is the mission of Jesus to share his intimate and eternal fellowship with the Father with all who will _____ in him.
- F. Salvation is far more than just not going to hell; it is an intimate _____ with God the Father through God the Son.



- G. “And the Word was God,” (1:1c) declares that the *Logos* is God and _____ God.
- H. Jesus is not merely God’s messenger; He is God the Son, existing eternally in _____ fellowship with the Father.
- I. Right belief about Jesus begins with His _____, not merely His works.
- J. If you have the wrong idea about Jesus, you will end up with the wrong idea about the gospel, the wrong idea about _____, and the wrong idea about the Christian life.

Life Lesson(s):

- The Church must express a _____ biblical Christology (the doctrine of Christ) about who Jesus is in God’s story.
- Worship Christ as Lord exclusively, not as a helpful religious _____ among many options.

II. The Word Is the Agent of Creation (v. 3)

- A. Everything that _____ came into being through the Word (*Logos*).
- B. Colossians 1:16 echoes John 1:3, and _____ to say that “by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...all things were created through him and for him.”
- C. John _____ it positively and negatively: “all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.”
- D. Christ is not _____ of creation; He is Creator; all creation depends on Him for its origin and meaning.
- E. The One who made all things has _____ over all things.

Life Lesson(s):

- Submit every area of life to Christ, because the Creator has rightful **claim** over His creation, including yourself. (Psalm 24:1)



III. The Word Is the Source of Life and the Conquering Light (vv. 4–5)

- A. The “life” to which John refers in 1:4 is **eternal** life.
- B. Christ is the giver of both natural life and _____ life.
- C. Eternal life is not just living a long time, rather it is a worshipful and blessed relationship with God the Father that is so precious and powerful that it will simply _____ stop.
- D. Life resides in the Word Himself, and that life becomes the _____ of humanity.
- E. As the “light,” Jesus is God’s self-disclosure, the one who makes God known and reveals him as a _____.
- F. John then declares that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not _____ it.
- G. The word “overcome” [ESV] in 1:5 is a play on words with a _____ meaning:
 - 1. The Greek word *katalambánō* can mean “grasp” as to _____ understand or comprehend.
 - 2. The Greek word *katalambánō* can also mean “grasp” or “seize” [in a _____ sense].
 - 3. In either case, the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus will _____ over darkness; Satan, sin, evil, and death.
- H. Darkness and light are in an irreconcilable _____.
- I. The light of the *Logos* reveals God, exposes sin, and _____ people into truth.
- J. Darkness is real, but it is not _____. The light of Christ is victorious.

Life Lesson(s):

- Come out of darkness by faith in Christ, and do not live as though darkness has the _____ word.
- The presence of Christ brings _____ and truth to a sinful world.



Discussion/Reflection Questions:

1. What does John 1:1–2 teach us about who Jesus is, and why does His identity matter for our faith?
2. How does knowing that all things were made through the Word shape the way you view your life and the world around you?
3. In what ways have you experienced Jesus as the source of life and light in your own walk with God?
4. What kinds of darkness do people face today, and how does John 1:5 give hope in the middle of that darkness?
5. How can you respond this week to the truth that the light of Christ shines and cannot be overcome?





DAILY DEVOTIONAL

GREATER ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH: VBS 2026

Jesus the Light of the World—SESSION 2: “And the light shines in the darkness”

Instructor: Kenneth Basile

Theme for the day: It is light that makes visible the deeds of God, both in creation and in the redeeming work of Christ. Today, consider how Jesus, the Light that guides the world to the Father, is victorious over darkness.

Early Morning Manna: The Eternity of the Word

Begin your day by meditating on the eternal nature of Jesus, the Word.

Reading: John 1:1-2 (ESV) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”

Reflection:

Jesus, the Word, existed from the very beginning, preexistent before all creation. He shares an intimate fellowship with God yet is distinct from the Father. Recognize His divine nature and affirm His full deity.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Jesus as the eternal Word. Help me to understand and appreciate His divine nature and His eternal presence with You. Amen.

Mid-Morning Meditation: The Word as Creator

Pause during your day to reflect on Jesus as the Creator of all things.

Reading: John 1:3 (ESV)

“All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.”

Reflection:

Jesus is the agent of creation, through whom all things were made. Nothing exists apart from Him, emphasizing His absolute sovereignty over creation. Contemplate His power and authority in bringing everything into existence.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for creating all things through Your Son, Jesus. Help me to see Your hand in every aspect of my life and to trust in Your sovereign plan. Amen.



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Midday Meditation: The Word as the Source of Life and Light

Take a moment in the afternoon to consider Jesus as the giver of life and light.

Reading: John 1:4 (ESV) “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Reflection:

Life is in Him, both physical and spiritual. He is the light of men, symbolizing truth, revelation, and salvation. Allow His light to illuminate your path and bring truth to your heart.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being the source of life and light in my life. Shine Your truth into my heart and guide me in Your ways. Amen.

Evening Reflection: The Triumph of the Light

Conclude your day by reflecting on the triumph of Jesus, the light, over darkness.

Reading: John 1:5 (ESV) “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Reflection:

The presence of Christ brings hope and truth to a sinful world. The darkness cannot extinguish or defeat the light of Christ. Trust in His victory and let His light overcome any darkness in your life.

Prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for the victory of Your Son, Jesus, over darkness. Help me to live in His light and to share His hope with others. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for this day of reflection and worship. Help me to carry the truths of John 1:1-5 in my heart and to live as a witness to Your eternal Word, Your divine Creator, and Your victorious light. In Jesus’ name, Amen.