

Read John 1:1-18

In his opening chapter, John immediately depicts Jesus as the Word, the essential and governing principle of created reality. John presents it as a mystery: that Jesus is both distinct from God *and* also God at the same time. These opening sentences are the earliest developments to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

1. What are the implications of the Incarnation—God becoming human in Jesus—to our human and personal existence? How does the Incarnation change the way we live as human beings?
2. John also presents Jesus as the conduit through which created reality came to be. This looks back to Genesis when God spoke and everything came to be. Being made in God's image, our human words also have power. What can the power of words do? How do we experience the power of words in our regular lives?
3. John teaches that the Word becoming flesh is the light and life of all people. Light and life are the earliest Bible images of new beginnings, of creation. What is new creation, the new beginning that came with Jesus?
4. John also said that Jesus came full of grace and truth. It's another way for John to say that Jesus is the light and life of the world. That is, light has to do with truth, and life has to do with grace. How does the Word, coming in flesh, reveal the truth, unveil reality, make clear what really is?
5. The life and grace that came with Jesus is the new birth—people becoming adopted children of God. According to John, how can we and how do we become children of God?
6. Life gives growth. As God's children with new life, we must grow up to maturity. What does it look like for a Christian to grow up to maturity? What does a Christian life that resembles God, that resembles Jesus the Word, look like?
7. Read and reflect on verse 7. How do we, as people of the Word, bear witness to Jesus, the light and life of the world?