

Study Questions for John 1 (Part 1) :1-5

- Why do you think John chose to begin his gospel with the opening words of the creation account in Genesis?
- **Something to ponder:** The Jews of John's day referred to the book of Genesis as "*In the Beginning*" because Genesis begins with these words. The Greek phrase can mean the moment of beginning (of history) or the root cause of all things.
- How can the Word both be *with* God and *be* God?
- John holds us in suspense about the Word's identity until 1:17. What do you think he means to imply about this Person by calling Him "*the Word*"?
- What changes about your understanding of "the Word" when John applies the personal masculine pronoun "he" in verse 2?
- Pastor Paul brought out how the information contained in **John 1:3** is echoed elsewhere in the pages of Scripture (such as Hebrews 1:2 and Colossians 1:16). Why do you think that John emphasized that Jesus is the Creator?
- What did you learn in the teaching about the different Greek words for *life*?
- What kind of *life* does John say that was in the Word and why does that communicate His deity to us?
- The concepts of *light* and *darkness* are favorites of John's. (For example, John uses the word *life* thirty-six times — far more than the other gospel writers.) What is light and darkness referring to in **verse 5**?
- John writes that the darkness has not overcome the light. How does Matthew 16:18 support that idea?
- **Something to think about:** John liked to use words and phrases that could have a double meaning. **Verse 5** is a good example of this. The Greek word translated *overcome* basically means "*to lay hold of so as to possess.*" It is normally used to mean "to understand." However, it can also mean "to overtake" (as seen in John 12:35).
- What is the most important thing you learned from this short study?