

## “In the Beginning” - John 1:1-14

Ask - “Have you ever known someone who was nicknamed for their attributes? Share.”

Background - The gospel of John was written by the apostle John, one of Jesus’ closest disciples and dearest friends. John was the youngest of the 12 apostles, and lived for many years after Jesus died on the cross. Later in his life, sometime between 70-90 AD, he wrote the book of John.

“The Deity of Jesus” - John 1:1-5

(v1-2) Who was/is the “Word”? How/Why is the “Word” a fitting name for Jesus? What do these verses teach us about the existence and nature of Jesus?

(v3) What was Jesus’ role in creation? Read and discuss Genesis 1:1,26 and Colossians 1:15-16.

(v4-5) What did Jesus bring to mankind, and to what is it compared? What was the world’s response to it and could they prevent Him from bringing it?

JESUS IS GOD - DIVINE AND ETERNAL. HE IS THE EXECUTOR OF THE FATHER’S WILL, AND WAS PRESENT AND ACTIVE DURING THE CREATION. HE CAME TO BRING SALVATION AND LIFE TO SINFUL MANKIND, AS A LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS.

“The Witness of John” - John 1:6-8

(v6) Who does this verse refer to? Is this the same person who wrote the gospel of John? Clearly distinguish them from one another.

(v7-8) What was the primary purpose of John the Baptist’s ministry? Read more in verses 19-28.

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS CHRIST, SENT TO TESTIFY ABOUT HIM AND PREPARE THE WORLD FOR HIS ARRIVAL.

“The True Light” - John 1:9-13

(v9) Who was the true Light? In what sense did He and does He enlighten every man? Discuss.

(v10-11) How was He generally received by the world (emphasis on the Gentiles)? In comparison, how was He generally received by His own people (emphasis on the Jews)?

(v12-13) What did He give to those who did receive Him (either Jew or Gentile)?  
Therefore, on what basis does someone become a true child of God?

JESUS IS PICTURED AS LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS. WHILE MOST DID NOT RECEIVE HIM, THOSE WHO DID WERE ACCEPTED BY GOD'S GRACE IN RESPONSE TO THEIR FAITH.

“The Word Became Flesh” - John 1:14

(v14) How does this single verse encapsulate and summarize the entire Christmas story which is told at length in Matthew and Luke?

JESUS - THE WORD OF GOD - WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND BECAME A MAN LIKE US WHILE STILL SIMULTANEOUSLY RETAINING THE GLORY AND DEITY OF THE FATHER.

Application - Many people in our world today misunderstand who Jesus truly is. They see Him as a great prophet and religious teacher who died a martyr's death for spreading His beliefs. But Jesus was so much more than that. He was/is God in the flesh. He came to give life and salvation to all who would believe. Like the Father, Jesus was, is, and is to come. How do you perceive Jesus?