

Knowing Jesus

Series: The Gospel of John

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Scripture

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, ^[a] and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. ^[b] ⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ^[c] ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. ¹⁴ So the Word became human ^[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. ^[e] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. ¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'" ¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ^[f] ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, ^[g] is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

Engage

John refers to Jesus as the "Word".

What is your full name? What is your nickname? Where did these names come from? Why would Jesus be referred to as the "Word"?

Discuss

The Point: John wrote this gospel to help us get to **know** Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him.

1. Why does John want us to believe what he has written about Jesus, according to John 20:31b? ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe ^[a] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name
 - **Jesus can help with any problem (1:1-3)**
2. Jesus has always existed because He is God. How does Jesus express this truth in John 8:58? ⁵⁸ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!" ^[a]
3. John tells us that Jesus was more than just with God, but that He was God. How does Jesus express this fact in John 10:30? ³⁰ The Father and I are one."
4. Through Jesus molecules and galaxies were made. More than that, what does Colossians 1:17b tell us? ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.
5. What facts about "the Word" can you find in verses (1-5)?

- **Jesus can bring light to darkness (1:4-5)**

6. Jesus is the only source of eternal life and also of light. Light refers to the fact that Jesus enlightens our minds and consciences. He enables us to understand what is morally right and to discover God's purpose for our lives. Why is this; based on John 1:5a? ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.^[a]
7. In the darkest days of your life, He is always present, waiting to lead and comfort you. This light is found in the Bible, which Jesus also created. So, what do we find to back this up in Psalm 119:130 ¹³⁰ The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.
8. Why do people still fail to comprehend the *light* even today?

- **Jesus can give new life (1:6-13)**

9. In John 3:10b, why does John tell us the Jews of his day, as well as people today, don't *know* or *receive* Jesus? ¹⁹ ... God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.
10. In verse 12, thinking of the image of "*receiving someone*" how would you explain what faith is all about? What is the result of this kind of faith?

- **Jesus can reveal what God is really like (1:14-18)**

11. What facts about "the Word" can you find in verses (10-18)?
12. John the Baptist was older and began his ministry before Jesus. But, what does he say about Jesus in the last phrase of John 1:15? ... "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"
13. No matter how much we sin, God's grace is always greater. The grace of Jesus Christ can never be exhausted. How does Paul express this truth in Romans 5:20b? ²⁰ God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.
14. No one has ever seen the essence of God (1 Jn. 4:12a) Why is that according to Exodus 33:20b? ²⁰ But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live."

Your Next Step

- Think about what Jesus can do for you.
- He can help with any problem, bring light to darkness, give new life, and reveal what God is really like.
- This all begins when you receive Him as Lord and Savior. To do that, Jesus said, "repent and believe in the gospel" Mark 1:15

A Closing Thought

Are you keeping Jesus outside the door of your heart and life? Are you keeping Him closed up in just a few rooms of your heart? Just what does John's emphasis on the pre-existent, creative Christ mean to you?