



WHAT

# Child

IS THIS?

## (2) "Jesus as God"

### HIGHLIGHT: John 1:1-5 NLT

H

*Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.*

#### John 1 (NLT)

vv. 1-5

- 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,  
and his life brought light to everyone.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

## EXPLAIN

E

*The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.*

When John wrote his gospel the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke had already been written and widely circulated; all Paul's letters had been written, and so were Peter's. So, why did he add to the collection? John's purpose for writing is found in John 20:30-31—"The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing in Him you will have life by the power of His name." John wrote evangelistically. Several miracles mentioned in the Gospel of John are not referred to in the other Gospels: turning water into wine, healing the official's son in Capernaum, healing the invalid at the pool of Bethesda, healing the man who was born blind, raising Lazarus from the dead, and the second miraculous catch of fish. But each of the incidents recorded in the

Gospel of John is specifically included to prove Jesus is indeed the Son of God, so that we might have life.

**John 1** It shouldn't surprise us that John doesn't begin his book with the beginning of Jesus' ministry (Mark) or His birth (Matthew and Luke). Rather he goes back to a time before time. John is not dealing with the man, Jesus; he is revealing the true identity of the One who walked and lived and breathed like we do.

**vv.1-2 JESUS IS GOD.** Jesus was the **Word** of God (see *John 1:14*). A word is an audible or visual expression of a thought. Nobody knows what God thinks until He tells us (see *Romans 11:33-34; Hebrews 1:1-2*). When Jesus was among us as a man He expressed what was going on in the mind of God (see *John 14:10-11, 24*).

This Word was **with God**. The Word and the Father are so intimately tied with each other that their thoughts and their purposes were one (*John 10:30*). Like two dancers or skaters who perform with such unity they appear to be one.

This Word was **God**. He was not created. He was not inferior to Father God. He is God of very God. Of the same essence, yet distinct from each other.

This Word **already existed in the beginning**. This Word of God is eternal—He existed before time began (see *John 17:5 and Colossians 1:17*).

**v.3 JESUS IS CREATOR OF EVERYTHING.** Eight times in the opening chapter of Genesis it says, "And God said..." The Word was speaking into being what the Father had designed in that incomprehensible mind of His (see *Psalms 148:5 and Colossians 1:15-17*).

**vv.4-5 JESUS IS LIFE AND LIGHT.** Life and light are two of John's favorite word pictures. Jesus is the source of all spiritual health. Without Jesus we are left in our decay (see *Ephesians 2:1-5*). But Jesus' graciousness goes beyond giving us life; He gives us light for the rest of the journey. The Word is a "lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (*Psalms 119:105; see Colossians 1:13-14*).

## APPLY

A

*Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.*

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. Why is it important that we affirm Jesus as God?
3. What parallels do you see between John 1 and Genesis 1?
4. What is important about the statement, "and the darkness can never extinguish it"?
5. How does this passage change the way you think about Jesus?

## R

## RESPOND

*The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.*

1. To sum up these verses; Jesus is God, Jesus created everything, and Jesus is Life and Light in this dark world. In what way(s) can these truths make an impact on your day-to-day living?
2. God's sovereignty is on display in the verse, "nothing was created except through him." (v. 3) Our world and culture try to find rest and peace in gaining and maintaining control of everyday life. "Trust the Science" is a good example.

How does God being in control of everything (His sovereignty) bring you rest and peace?

Where do you need to trust in Him more?