

Do you want to know God? You must come to know him through the Word. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word.

**1-2                    The Word and God**

The Word has always existed. He has always been with God. He himself is fully God, distinct but inseparably united to God the Father.

**3-9                    The Source of Light and Life**

The Word makes God known through his work of creation, through his work of revelation and through his incarnation. John the Baptist announced that he was coming into the world.

**10-11                The Word Rejected**

The Word came into the world but, on the whole, he was rejected. He came to his own people, the people of God, but even they did not receive him.

**12-13                The Word Accepted**

Those who accepted the Word, that is those who believed in him, were given the right to become children of God. Not only did they come to know about God, they came into a new living relationship with him.

**14-17                The Source of Grace and Truth**

The Word took on a human body and a human soul in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He came to reveal God's grace and truth. John the Baptist announced that he had come into the world.

**18                    The Word and God**

God the Father cannot be seen. Jesus, the Son of God, the one who has always been with God, has made him known.

# An Introduction to John's Gospel

**Zetland Evangelical Church  
(August 2011)**

John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. He saw Jesus turn water into wine. He saw Jesus heal the sick and raise the dead. He reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper. He stood by the cross as Jesus died. He saw the empty tomb. He saw Jesus risen from the dead.

John wrote this gospel so that, through Jesus Christ, you may know God.

### Outline

In the first eighteen verses of chapter one, John introduces us to the major themes of his gospel.

At the beginning and end of this prologue, John describes the Word's relationship to God. In the middle of the prologue, John describes the Word's relationship to the world.

In the first nine verses, John speaks of life and light using language taken from the creation account in Genesis chapter 1. In the last five verses, he uses the language of grace and truth that echoes Moses' encounter with God in Exodus chapter 34.

This suggests that the prologue has the following structure:

|       |                               |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1-2   | The Word and God              |
| 3-9   | The Source of Life and Light  |
| 10-11 | The Word Rejected             |
| 12-13 | The Word Accepted             |
| 14-17 | The Source of Grace and Truth |
| 18    | The Word and God              |

### The Word and God

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.

### The Source of Life and Light

<sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup>That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

### The Word Rejected

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

### The Word Accepted

<sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### The Source of Grace and Truth

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

### The Word and God

<sup>18</sup>No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.