



*That You May*  
**HAVE LIFE**

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*women's*  
BIBLE STUDY



women's | BIBLE STUDY

LESSON *One*

In the Beginning

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)  
John’s first three words, “In the beginning,” are meant to trigger a memory. The reader’s mind is intended to flash back to Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” This small phrase tells you that the story of John’s Gospel actually traces all the way back to the beginning of time. It is a story that had **you** in mind from the very start.

*“In the beginning  
was the Word, and the  
Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.”  
(John 1:1)*

**In the beginning God created.** He spoke into existence all that we can and cannot see. With the simple words, “Let there be...,” God, in His kindness brought plants, animals, oceans, and skies into the world. Then, out of love, He formed the pinnacle of His creation from the dirt of the earth. He breathed *life* into Adam and Eve, making them in His image. He placed them in a garden called Eden, gave them freedom of choice, and told them to be fruitful and to multiply. Because He loved them, He commanded them not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil or they would surely die. Here in the garden, they lived in perfect peace with God. All was right in the world.

But one day a crafty serpent came into the garden and planted seeds of doubt into Adam and Eve’s minds about their Creator. He caused them to question whether God had their best interest in mind. In a moment of rebellion, they listened to the serpent’s lies and ate fruit from the forbidden tree. One seemingly harmless act altered the course of the creation. Just as God told them, sin and death had now entered the world and Adam and Eve could do nothing to fix it.

Instead of peace with God, they would now naturally drift toward rebellion. Instead of ease and blessing, sin and suffering would reign. Instead of living in harmony with God, they would now be separated from Him. And instead of life, Adam and Eve would now experience death.

If this was not bad enough, the consequence of their choice would spread. As a result, death would now touch every human who ever lived. Romans 5:12 says, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...” Their choice had repercussions that we still feel today.

All humanity was now in need of a Savior, someone to bring them back into relationship with God. They needed someone to reverse the curse of death. But how could this be? Who would save them from sin, suffering, and death? Who could offer them new life? All seemed hopeless. All seemed lost.

But God. In His kindness, God had a plan to give His people life. He loved them and would not leave them on their own.

Through Adam, God promised that one would come who would eventually crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Death would not reign forever. There was hope of new life on the horizon.

Through Abraham, God promised that one would come from his line that would bless all the nations of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3). God would not abandon His people. In fact, He always had a bigger plan in mind.

Through David, God promised that one of his descendants would reign on an eternal throne (2 Samuel 7). Sinful humanity would one day have a righteous king ruling once and for all.

Even though God made incredible promises to Adam, Abraham, and David, each of these men died in their sin. Each one returned to the dust from which he was formed. No one could reverse the curse of death. Not one could offer new life to God's people.

All creation was still waiting for a Savior.

Until one day, because of His faithfulness, God sent His Son, Jesus, to the world. Jesus was the son of Adam, the son of Abraham, and the son of David. He was the fulfillment of each one of God's promises. He was the One who had come to bridge the uncrossable chasm, to offer hope and blessing, and ultimately, to bring new life. Jesus, the Savior of the world, had finally arrived.

This is the story of the Gospel of John, a book that displays the hope and beauty of a life with Jesus Christ. Reading through John you will find that life with Jesus is defined by fullness and joy. It is a life marked by peace, hope, and love. It is eternal life that begins the moment you first believe, and it is life that never ends.

Don't miss it. This story was written by God Himself for you. This story was written **so that you may have life**.

**Read the Introduction (pages 8-9) and John 1:1-18 before answering the following questions.**

1. From the story above and John 1:1-18, how would you describe God?

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## ENTIRE PASSAGE

In every lesson you will be asked to read the entire passage before answering the questions. This will help you get a broader picture of the story before jumping into the details.

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## TWO JOHNS?

The man John mentioned in verses 6-8 is not the same John who authored this gospel. The author of this book was one of Jesus' disciples, while the John mentioned in verse 6 is John the Baptist who was sent by God to prepare Israel, God's chosen people, for their Messiah.

2. What did you learn or what encouraged you from the Introduction?  
From the story?

3. In the chart below, write down what you discover about each word from John 1:1-18:

**“THE WORD”**

John 1:14-17 reveals that “the Word” represents God’s Son, Jesus.

**PROLOGUE**

John 1:1-18 is known as the prologue of the Gospel of John. It highlights major themes, introduces main characters, and gives insight into what will happen in the rest of the book.

The Word	
Light	
Grace	
Life	
The World	
Flesh	

“*The Word became flesh* tells us that the man Jesus was no mere mortal. He was not an inspired carpenter or a model human. Jesus was God himself—taking on the clothing of humanity, embracing it fully and eternally, walking in it, speaking through it, and delivering the reality of God to the world in a manner never done before.”

– Gary M. Burge <sup>2</sup>

**Read John 1:1-5.**

4. Words, whether spoken or written, are tools of communication. Though Jesus was so much more than this, how does this impact your understanding of verses 1-3? What do you specifically learn about Jesus, the Word, in verses 1-5?
5. What claim is made in verse 4? Do you agree? Explain. (For additional support of this claim, see 1 John 5:9-12 and Romans 6:23.)

**Read John 1:6-13.**

6. John the Baptist is introduced in verses 6-8. Who was he?
7. It is evident from verses 10-11 that Jesus came to save His people although He knew they would reject Him. What emotions does this stir up for you? How does this influence or change your view of Jesus?

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## LOGOS

“The Word” is the Greek word Logos. “Logos means ‘that which is spoken.’ John chose this term because it was familiar to his audience of both Jews and Greeks. In Judaism the term was used for God. In Greek intellectual circles the Word was the controlling reason of the universe, the all-pervasive mind which ruled and gave meaning to all things.”<sup>3</sup>

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## PRESENT TENSE

Notice how John 1:5 is written in present tense. In a subtle way, the author is hinting at the end of the story. Take heart, darkness will never overcome the light.<sup>4</sup>

8. Using the ESV Translation, fill in the blanks below from verse 12:

“But to all who did \_\_\_\_\_ him, who \_\_\_\_\_  
in his name, he gave the right to become \_\_\_\_\_.”

All you must do to be God’s child is believe in Jesus. Read the definition of Assurance of Salvation in the Appendix. What thoughts do you have as you reflect on this? Are you certain of your salvation? Explain.

“In him was life, and the life was the light  
of men. The light shines in the darkness, and  
the darkness has not overcome it.”

— *John 1:4-5*

**Read John 1:14-18.**

9. Read Leviticus 26:11-12 and Zechariah 2:10-11. Both are prophecies from the Old Testament about God’s plan for the salvation of mankind. How do you see these fulfilled in Jesus? (See also Revelation 21:3.)

10. Explain John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus from verse 15. In one sentence, what was John the Baptist’s mission? (For more information about John the Baptist see Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:1-8, and Luke 1:8-23.)

## JOHN 1:14

Take a minute to reflect on the significance of John 1:14. About this verse, scholar F. F. Bruce says, “When the Word became flesh, God became man.” This truth should never cease to amaze you.<sup>5</sup>

11. Look back over the entire prologue of John. Then, imagine sitting down for coffee with a friend who asks, “Who is Jesus and why did He come to earth?” How would you respond? (For help, see John 1:12, 18; 10:10; 20:31.)
  
12. Consider what you already know about Jesus. Why is “The Word” a fitting description for Him?
  
13. Later we will see Jesus claim in John 10:10 “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” What do you think abundant life in Jesus looks like? If you believe in Jesus, are you experiencing the abundant life He promises? If you are not experiencing abundant life, is it because you don’t know Jesus or something else? (See John 17:3, Philippians 4:19, and 1 John 5:11-13 for help.)

Jesus is the Word who became flesh. The Gospel of John explains that He lived a perfect life, died a death He did not deserve, and was raised from the grave three days later. He did this so that you may know and have a relationship with the Father. He did this so that you may have life. The life Jesus offers you is not just for eternity in the future, not just a means to escape hell, but abundant life in Him here and now. Can you imagine a life full of freedom, forgiveness, peace, and rest? A life defined by hope and joy? A life spent ever walking in His presence, growing in the knowledge of His never-ending love? This life is the very life Jesus is offering to you right now. This is what you will learn about through this study. We are so glad you are here.

## BIRTH NARRATIVE

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The Gospel of John is unique in that there is no birth narrative for Jesus. To read an account of the birth of Christ, turn to Matthew 1-2 or Luke 2.

## GRACE UPON GRACE

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What does the phrase “grace upon grace” mean? “God’s grace to His people is continuous and is never exhausted. Grace knows no interruption and no limit....Grace is always an adventure.”<sup>6</sup>

## BELIEVE

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“Note that these first eighteen verses contain not a single command to obey, but simply news to believe.”<sup>7</sup>





BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Notes