

Gospel of John (lesson 1)

The Gospel of John is a good place to start a Bible study as it is considered the gospel to the church. It was written after the other three gospels, and contains accounts that are different than the other three. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all have parallel accounts of Jesus, but John fills in the gaps in their writings. John has a more spiritual content as he focuses on the spiritual aspect of Jesus, while the other three are a more factual account.

John 1:1-2

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.

John started with creation to show the spiritual nature of Jesus and his part in creation. Jesus is part of what we call the God Head, or trinity. The Word that John refers to is not something spoken, but a person referred to in the old testament as the Word of Jehovah.

Psalm 107:19-20

- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- 20 He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.

In this Psalm the word is implied to be a person and “he healed them;” The word rescued them from the grave. The word for “word” in verse 20 is **davar** in the Hebrew and has dual meaning of what is spoken and what is done.

Genesis 1:1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The rest of Chapter 1 of Genesis documents creation using the words “God said“ indicating the spoken word of God is responsible for creation.

John 1:3

- 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

This again corresponds with Genesis Chapter 1. Jesus is identified as our creator.

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John 1:4-5

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome [understood] it.

Genesis 1:3

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Jesus is called the light of the world. Light was the first item created. Light is more than being able to see. Light is energy, has mass, its speed can be measured. The light of our sun is required to sustain life. We need sun light for heat, and is used by plants to make oxygen for our use. This is part of the carbon cycle of life on earth.

The darkness in man's heart needs the light of Jesus to be born again. In this way, Jesus is the light, and the life of man.

John opens his Gospel with this explanation of who Jesus is in the spirit. Man rejects this account of Jesus because it unmistakably identifies Jesus as God.