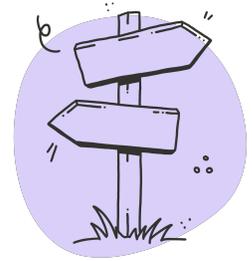


01 The Gospel of John



John 1:1-5 | "In the Beginning"

As you begin your journey of making disciples, always keep in mind what we learned about discipleship and the importance of the word "endowment".

- *Understanding Discipleship: What is Discipleship?*

Introduction

Q: What do we know about the gospels?

Each one was written with a particular audience in mind.

- Gospel of Matthew | To the Jewish world
- Gospel of Mark | To the Greek-speaking world
- Gospel of Luke | To the Gentile world
- Gospel of John | To the whole world

Q: What do we know about John, the author of the Gospel of John?

- One of the 12 apostles
- Only apostle who wasn't martyred, put to death, for his faith
- One of the three apostles closest to Jesus (John, Peter, and James)
- Referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." (John 13:23)

John 13:23–24 (ESV)

*23 One of his disciples, **whom Jesus loved**, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.*

Q: Why did John write this gospel?

John 20:30–31

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but **these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Focus

- Jesus has always been
- Jesus is the Word
- All things were made through Jesus
- Jesus is the Light

Our Text & What We Learn

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(v 1)*

Q: Who is John referring to as "the Word," and how do we know?

Thread

Revelation 19:11–16

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is **The Word of God**. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a **sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the **wrath of God** the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

As we explore the scriptures, we aim to capitalize on themes, connections, and threads that reinforce the truths you are learning. The end result will be a stronger foundation in your biblical understanding.

Circle 'sharp sword' as a reinforcement to connect God's word, the Bible, to that of a sword, which we see in other places in Scripture.

Thread

Hebrews 4:12

*12 For the word of God is living and active, **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Ephesians 6:10–17

*10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against **the cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God**,*

He was in the beginning with God. (v 2)

Q: How do we know Jesus was in the beginning with God?

Thread

Genesis 1:26–27

26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
 27 So God **created man in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (v 3)

It is essential to know that, in addition to creating all things, Jesus is preeminent in everything, being first in importance to all things.

Thread

Colossians 1:15–20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him **all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent [surpassing all others]. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (vv 4-5)

Pay close attention to this contrast between light and darkness. It recurs over and over again and is key to understanding our conversion and the cosmic battle that abounds.

Look at this account of Paul giving his testimony to King Agrippa.

Thread

Acts 26:12–18

12 "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, **so that they may turn from darkness to light** and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

In John's gospel, we will read seven statements that Jesus made, statements which we call the "I am" statements. We will look at each of these when we get to Chapter 6. The second statement is "I am the light of the world."

John 8:12

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The profound, natural truth about darkness and light is that the greatest amount of darkness cannot snuff out the slightest bit of light. Conversely, the tiniest bit of light will expose what is hidden in the darkest of dark.

Next: John 1:6-18 | "Grace & Truth"