

Week 1 of January
Jesus, the Word from the Beginning

- **Text:** John 1:1~4 (January 1 text)
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Jesus Christ is God the Creator, the One who gives us life and light.

≡ **1. Prayer**

God, thank you for allowing us to gather for the first family worship service of the new year. May God be the owner of our family and guide us on the path of love throughout the year.

≡ **2. Praise**

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≡ **3. The Word**

Read John 1:1~4 together (read the verse three times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

<NASB>

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.

Understanding Text

Jesus existed before the world was created. Jesus is the Word from the beginning, He is with God, and He is God. Jesus is the Creator who created the heavens and the earth and all things together with God. It is eternal life that resolves the sin and death of mankind, and it is the light that illuminates the darkness.

Understanding the text for leaders

The Apostle John begins the Gospel of John with the proclamation, "In the beginning was the Word" (1:1). This reminds us of Genesis 1:1, which reminds the Israelites of "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." John begins his Gospel with a powerful and striking phrase to emphasize that Jesus is God. The Greek word for "word" is logos. For those who were familiar with Greek philosophy, the term "Logos" meant the supreme principle of the universe within all things. John introduces Jesus through the term "Logos," but he goes beyond the concept of "Logos" and emphasizes that Jesus is the God who existed from the beginning and created the heavens and the earth. Jesus existed before the world was created. John teaches us that God created the world through Jesus and that nothing was created without Jesus. There was "life" in Jesus, and that life was the "light" of people. Light is closely related to life. Through Jesus, we receive eternal life, which John describes as the "light" that leads people to the way of salvation (8:12; 9:5; 12:46). Jesus is the life, the light that leads to salvation, the God who is with people, and the one who shows us what God is like.

4. Sharing

1) How does John introduce Jesus as? Find all the explanations about Jesus (verses 1~4).

Upper Grades

Find all the expressions that describe Jesus, the Word, and mark them.

Lower Grades

What did Jesus create in this world? (verse 3).

Question Guide

Read the text keeping in mind that all of the words refer to Jesus. If you focus on Jesus' creation rather than on his very existence, it will be easier for young children to understand.

Comments for Leaders

John begins his Gospel by declaring that Jesus is God. Even though Jesus came to this earth in a human body (incarnation), we should not understand Him only as a man. The Gospel of John emphasizes the divinity of Jesus as God. Remembering that Jesus is God in the flesh when you read the Gospel of John, it will be very beneficial. Let's take a look at the concepts of 'the beginning (before time, before creation), God who is the Word, the work of creation, life (eternal), and light (that illuminates darkness)' in 1:1~4 in connection with the divinity of Jesus. Jesus, who is the life and light, expresses the characteristics of Jesus who saves mankind from sin and death.

2) Share one of the ways you would introduce Jesus to those who don't know Him yet.

■ **Upper Grades**

Write a brief statement about introducing Jesus to a family member or friend who doesn't know Him.

■ **Lower Grades**

Who is Jesus? Please share one thing from today's message that you remember about Jesus.

□ **Question Guide**

John introduces us to Jesus, whom he knows, believes, and confesses, through the Gospel of John. We also need to preach to others the Jesus we know, believe, and confess. Talk about your own experiences and knowledge of Jesus, and share how you might introduce Him to those who don't yet believe in Him.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

John introduces Jesus not only to the Jews but also to the people who lived in the Greek culture at the time. I use the term Word (Greek for "Logos") to introduce people familiar with Greek philosophy to who the true Logos is. We can also introduce Jesus and boast about Him in the culture and language of our time. Take the time to write and express what you know about Jesus and what you have experienced by faith. You can also ask them to find out if there are other expressions that refer to Jesus other than John 1:1~4, and to draw their own image of Jesus.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Remember and give thanks to Jesus, who is God, who became man for us and gave us eternal life.

≡ **6. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus, who is from the beginning, to this earth and for giving us eternal life. May our family live in Jesus, the life and light, and be zealous in introducing Jesus to unbelievers this year.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"