

John 1:1-18 The Divine Nature of Christ Logos: Jesus Eternal

Transition:

In his first chapter, John introduces Jesus as "the Word," from the Greek *logos*. This chapter clearly describes Jesus as God. After this prologue, the chapter describes Jesus recruiting the first of His disciples, as well as a conversation between John the Baptist and the Pharisees. There are several names or titles for Christ in this chapter, including "the Son of God," "the Word," and "the King of Israel." What are others?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the statement "the Word was God" shape our understanding of Jesus' divinity? Does this create any challenges or questions in you?
2. Do Jehovah Witness believe that Jesus is God? What is their interpretation of this chapter?
3. How might we, like John, be called to "bear witness" to Jesus in our own lives? Do you have any struggles with this idea?
4. What do you think the "darkness" represents in this context, and why does it fail to overcome the light?

Fundamental:

John makes it clear that the Word is not just the beginning, but it is the beginning of the beginning. He was there in the beginning, before anything was. This description is given in order that we may at once grasp a continuous history which runs out of an unmeasured past, and the identity of the person who is subject of that history.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ancient Jews had a hard time accepting that the great God revealed in the Old Testament could take on human form. List ways Christians differ.
2. Talk to a friend about their beliefs in God. Share with them these verses and explain to them darkness and light from what you have learned in this chapter.

Discipleship Tip:

To deepen your understanding and experience of Jesus Christ as the Word of Life, seek him daily in his word and pray for deeper understanding from the Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for revealing to us your truth regarding your son!