

WARM-UP

- What is one new skill or hobby you want to pick up? Why?
- Tell us about one or two people you look up to and would want to know more.
- What does it feel like to meet someone for the first time? How is it different when you meet them again?

WORD *¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.* **JOHN 1:1-2**

(Read also **JOHN 1:3-5, 9-14, 16-18.**)

Many times in our life of faith, we have different misconceptions of who God really is. Sometimes, we may even feel that God is distant from us because of our misunderstanding of Him. We wonder about the best way to reach God among the seemingly different options available. Despite all these, God has made Himself present and approachable through His Word made flesh, in the person of Jesus. Today, we will look at how Jesus—the living Word of God—desires for us to be in a relationship with Him through His redemptive work.

1 | Jesus is the Word of God who came near.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:14

Jesus becoming God's eternal Word in the flesh is an affirmation of His longing to be intimate with us. For many years, the Israelites had to follow a strict practice before they could stand in God's presence. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle or in the Temple. When the appointed time came, Jesus became a real person that anybody could get to know. He meets us where we are, regardless of our circumstances in life, and is closer to us than we think. Was there a time when you felt far from God, only to realize He was near to you? What happened?

2 | Jesus is the Word of God who makes the Father known.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. JOHN 1:18

When Jesus came into the world, many people did not know who He was. Some thought of Him as a wise teacher, while others saw Him as a political threat. It was only when people received a personal revelation that they understood who He truly is. One of the reasons Jesus came to the earth is to reveal God to man. As the second person of the Trinity, He is the perfect revelation of God. By believing and receiving this, we become naturally inclined to follow Him and know Him more. We do this through reading, preaching, and living out God's Word. In fact, the whole Bible is the recording of the life and teachings of Jesus. As a believer, how did you come to know God and what have you learned about Him?

3 | Jesus is the Word of God who desires to be received.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God . . . **JOHN 1:10-12**

During His ministry, Jesus called several people to follow Him as His disciples. A handful of them left their old lives because they witnessed God in person. As they walked with Him, the disciples got to know Him more, each in their own unique way. In the same manner, Jesus invites us to have a relationship with Him, not just as His disciples but more so as His brothers and sisters, as children of God. When we receive Jesus, by believing in Him, we are given the right to become children of God. We grow in our relationship with Him as we continue to receive His word. According to Romans 8:16-17, who does God say we are?

APPLICATION

- Every day is a new opportunity to go deeper in our relationship with Jesus. What is one thing you can do differently starting today to know Him?
- Were there moments in your life that you misunderstood God or felt that He was distant? Ask God to show you more of who He is and to remind you that He is always with you.
- Think of someone close to you who has yet to have a personal relationship with Jesus. How can you be a living testimony of the word and lead this person to Jesus?

