

WARM-UP

- Share something that reminds you of Christmas (e.g., food, songs, events).
- How do you celebrate Christmas as a family? What do you usually do at this time of the year?
- Recall the year of your favorite Christmas celebration. What made this time so special?

WORD *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. JOHN 1:1*

(Read also **JOHN 1:2-18.**)

While some of us celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas season, it is easy to overlook something equally important as His arrival—the reason He was born. The Gospel of John gives us a good idea of this reason and starts by introducing Jesus as the Word of God. In fact, the Greek word *logos* literally means “word” or “reason.” This is a fitting description of who Jesus is as we unwrap the purpose of His coming. Today, we will look at Jesus as the Word of God and what this means for the redemption of mankind.

1 | The Word is God.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. JOHN 1:1-3

Jesus is both the Son of God and the Word of God. This Word was present in the very beginning, and as the Son, Jesus is God. In addition, He is the perfect reflection of what the Father is like. When a message is relayed to us, we get an idea of who the sender is and what they are thinking. In the same way, Jesus reveals to us who the Father is, the kind of relationship we can have with God, and how we can translate our belief about God in our lives. Jesus is God's ultimate communication of truth about Himself. Why do you think this passage is critical for our faith in who Jesus is? How did you come to the point of believing that Jesus—the Son of God and the Word of God—is God?

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2 | The Word is life.

⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. JOHN 1:4-5

In the midst of trials and challenging situations, we look to something that could give us hope and sustain us. The life that is in Jesus is this hope and is the light of all men that guides us. This life from God is not only the eternal life to come, but also a victorious life here on earth. This does not mean the absence of trials and tribulation, but when hardships come, we can still experience the love, joy, and peace that only He brings. When we hold on to the Word of

God, we can experience this fullness of life here on earth. What do you think a life with Jesus looks like? How is that different from the life you used to live?

3 | The Word became flesh.

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

The Jews eagerly waited for their prophesied Messiah who would come as a mighty King. Little did they know that He would come in the form of a baby, born in an unexpected place. This is a beautiful picture of how Jesus, the fulfilled promise of God, chose to dwell with us as a human being. He became lowly Himself and appeared to the lowly. Jesus is truly the Word made flesh and the perfect revelation of the Father. How can you proclaim this truth to those you will meet this Christmas?

APPLICATION

- Do these things you do during Christmas reflect or point back to the good news of God redeeming humanity through Jesus? What are you willing to do differently to celebrate Christmas?
- John 1:4–5 reminds us that Jesus is the hope and light of all men. With whom can you share this truth?
- Christmas is a reminder of why Jesus came into the world—to give us life, hope, and to be with us. What are some practical ways we can live out this truth beyond the Christmas season?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the gift of Jesus as the hope and light of all men. Ask God to align your heart with the reason you celebrate Christmas.
- Pray that Jesus becomes the center of why you celebrate Christmas, amidst the other things that can become the focus of the season (e.g., gifts, Christmas parties).
- Pray that God gives you the courage to proclaim Christ, the greatest gift of all, to your friends and family this season.