

# 01 WORD MADE FLESH

KEY TEXT: JOHN 1:1-18

## CENTRAL truth

John began his Gospel with a familiar phrase, “In the beginning.” He did this to remind his readers of Genesis 1, where God created the world with just His words. Significantly, John called Jesus “the Word,” and made startling claims about Him: **Jesus is God’s Language, God’s Light, and God Himself, living among us.**

## key question

Why is it significant that the Word became flesh (see v. 14)?

Jesus is God—limitless and living in a place where He is continually worshiped. Yet He set aside His heavenly home to take on the limitations of the human body and experience profound rejection, pain, and ultimately death. Why would God become human? He came to give life to people trapped in darkness. Those who believed in Him would receive an unfathomable blessing: they would become children of God.

## keep in mind

John’s Gospel begins with poetic language that some students might find challenging or burdensome, while others may enjoy it. The majority of John’s Gospel is written with much more straightforward language, but the beginning poetry helps us understand some foundational ideas about God and humans that we can carry with us throughout the text.

The Apostle John, who wrote this Gospel, speaks quite a bit about John the Baptist. These are two different Johns! The Apostle John was one of Jesus’s closest disciples, and John the Baptist was commissioned by God to preach about Jesus’s coming and to invite people to repent of their sins. John the Apostle begins his Gospel by talking about John the Baptist, because John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.

## application

Though Jesus is God, He still desired to be with those He created. How is this both honoring and humbling?

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students have the opportunity to see themselves in light of “the Word.” They can be *humbled* to recognize that Jesus is God—the Creator of all things, and the limitless source of life and light. They can also be *honored* to know that God took on a human body to make a way for us to be children of God.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Challenge students to allow this concept to inform their entire worldview, from the way they talk about themselves when they look in the mirror to the way they treat others.