

He's More Than You Ever Imagined

"Learning Jesus" (The Gospel of John)

John 1:1-2

January 6, 2019

BIG IDEA

The Apostle John was excited about the infinite and eternal nature of Jesus, who is the Son of God. It was vitally important to John that we understand exactly who Jesus is, in order that we might believe in Him.

That's the goal of his gospel as seen in John 20:31: *"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* The first two verses of his prologue provide the foundation for his argument as to why we should believe.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

The goal of our series is to learn and love Jesus. We will notice amazing signs and statements, along with rich theology that will take us deeper. We begin by understanding that John wrote this book from Ephesus in the late first century (85-95 AD). John is eliciting belief and the unfathomable nature of Jesus Christ is foundational to his effort. In these short two verses we learn that Jesus is eternal and has always been with God, that He is the expression of God, and that He is completely God.

John 1:1-2

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.

1. Jesus Has Always Been

John 1:1a – *“In the beginning...”*

The words “in the beginning” remind us of the very first words in the Bible: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). We immediately tune into the amazing fact that there has never been a time when Jesus “was not.” Before the universe existed, the second person of the Trinity “was.”

John 8:58 – *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

- a. **How does your view of Jesus change when you begin to understand that He never began and always has been?**

- b. **Jesus didn’t begin when He came to earth. He is an eternal being. How does His eternity affect your eternal future? How does His eternity differentiate Him from other religious teachers in regards to the believability of His message?**

- c. **Jesus is outside of time. We live our lives based on time. We worry about coming events and strive to deal with the every-day chaos that this world has to offer. Does the Lord’s eternal state give hope if you were to trust Him more? Why or why not?**

2. Jesus is the Self-Expression of God

John 1:1b – *“...was the Word...”*

The term “Word” is the common Greek word *logos*, which meant “speaking, a message, or words.” The term finds its meaning within John’s culture as one that is an expression of God’s creative work, revelation, deliverance, and salvation. All of these attributes are wrapped up in one Person: Jesus Christ.



- a. **It is true to say that God created and the agent of creation is Jesus Christ. Have you ever thought about Jesus as the creator? How does that change your view of Him? Do you believe that He can create something new in your heart and life? What would that look like?**

- b. **Jesus (the Word) is part of you. If you are His follower, you are endowed with the same power that He used to accomplish the work of the Father. Are you using all of this power? Do you know how? How would your life change if you did?**

3. Jesus Has Always Been With God

John 1:1c – "...and the Word was with God..."

Here, the rich doctrine of the Trinity is found. God is made up of three Persons, all equal in essence, but each performing a particular role. John is not implying that there are two Gods. He is not implying that Jesus is just one of a number of gods. One of the great heresies of Jehovah's Witness theology translates this clause to: "The Word was a god." This is incorrect, and logically then, is polytheism (the worship of more than one God). If we correctly understand this verse, it helps clarify the doctrine of the Trinity. God is three in one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- a. **Why is it important to have a clear understanding regarding the doctrine of the Trinity? Given that each Person within the Trinity has a unique role, what is the role of Jesus? How does He fulfill it?**

- b. **God is made up of three unique Persons. Do you feel comfortable praying to each Person? Why or why not?**



- c. **Many times we talk about the Holy Spirit as being an “it.” The truth, though, is that He is fully God. Why is it hard for us to think of the Spirit on the same terms as Jesus and His Father?**

4. Jesus Is God

John 1:1d – “...and the Word was God.”

Jesus is more than we can ever imagine. He is an amazing person that is worthy of our love, worship, and our very lives. He is fully and eternally God! New Testament believers came around to this understanding rather quickly. In Romans 5:9, for example, Paul refers to “*Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever.*”

- a. **When we see Jesus as fully God, we understand Him better. Our definition of Him becomes much more reliable. What are some things that are true, and not true, of Jesus in light of His identity as God?**

- b. **How does this realization help you trust Him more? What are some ways you can continue to relinquish yourself to Him?**

5. Jesus is the Word of Life

The amazing work of God allowed Jesus to not only exist with the Father through all of eternity, but to also dwell with us as the God-man that brings life into the world. The disciples understood this aspect of Jesus. In another writing of John, he proclaims this truth:

1 John 1:1-2 – That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.



John is talking about God's Son, who is Life. The Apostle affirmed this truth again in 1 John 5:20.

1 John 5:20 – *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

- a. **What will you do about this truth? Will you accept it to be true? If so, will you change your behaviors and priorities in light of it?**

- b. **Can you think of three people that need to hear this truth? How will you tell them about it?**

PRAY

Lord, thank you that you are three in one. I praise you for the knowledge that my Lord Jesus Christ indwells me with immense power. I love you for loving me. Help me to be a thoughtful and powerful witness to this truth. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*The Gospel According to John*](#) – a commentary from D.A. Carson
- [*Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*](#) – a book from Michael Frost

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Learning Jesus: The pre-existent relationship of Jesus to creation (John 1:3-5)

