



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Jesus: from Beginning to Bethlehem**

**Date: January 26, 2025**

**Scripture Text: John 1:1-5, 14**

**Series: Believe - The Study of the Book of John**

### **Notes:**

Today we kick off our study of the book of John in a series called “Believe”. The Apostle John’s Gospel is unique from the other three (Matthew, Mark, & Luke). It is believed that the other three had already been written and John, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wanted to tell the story of Jesus that had not been told. More than 90% of its content is unique. John’s Gospel does not focus on the miracles, parables, and public speeches that are so prominent in the other accounts. Instead, the Gospel of John emphasizes the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and how we, as believers, should respond to his teachings. The purpose statement in [20:30–31](#) indicates that John wrote with an evangelistic purpose. In our passage today, John shares the mysteries of Jesus Christ as God.

#### **I. Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1-2)**

“In the beginning was the Word’ echoes [Gen 1:1](#), “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” John located Jesus’s existence in eternity past with God. The Word was God: Not only did Jesus exist before creation, He is also the same God who created the heavens and the earth. “The Word” conveys the notion of divine self-expression or speech ([Ps 19:1–4](#)). God’s Word is effective. He speaks, and things come into being ([Gen 1:3, 9](#); [Isa 55:11–12](#).” (Blum) This passage describes 3 features of the deity of Jesus.

- Jesus is the Exact Expression of God ([vss. 1, 14](#))
  - How is Jesus described in [vs. 1](#)?
  - How does Jesus’ being described as ‘the Word’ an expression of God?
- Jesus is Eternally God ([vs. 1](#))
  - When *the beginning* began, Jesus was there. When was *the beginning*?
  - How long has Jesus been around?
  - Why is it important to realize that Jesus existed before Bethlehem, that He is eternal?
- Jesus is Essentially God ([vs. 1c](#))
  - What is the Trinity?
  - What is Jesus’ part in the Trinity?
  - Why is it important to remember that Jesus and God are the same?

How does the eternal, godly nature of Jesus Christ encourage you to follow Him?



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### **II. Jesus is Creator (John 1:3)**

Not only is Jesus God, but He also participated in the creation. Christ was involved in the creation of everything that exists today. John explains the work of the Word in the beginning. [Genesis 1:1-31](#) tells how God brought the universe into being by His creative word. John picks this up when he says that it was ‘through’ the person of the Word that God brought all things into being.

- What role did Jesus have in creation ([Col. 1:15-17](#))?
- Knowing Jesus was involved in your creation, what does that say about what He knows about you?
- With Jesus knowing all there is to know about you, how can that be an encouragement to trust that He knows what is best for you?
- Not only was Jesus involved in your creation, but it is also by Him you are saved to spend eternity with Him in heaven. How did He do that?
- How does having salvation through Christ’s redemptive work affect how you live for Him?

### **III. Jesus is the Giver of Life (John 1:4-5)**

“John affirmed that in the ultimate sense, life is in Christ. Man’s spiritual and physical life come from Him. Jesus, the Source of “life” ([11:25](#)), is also the light of men ([8:12](#)). Light is commonly used in the Bible as an emblem of God [and life]; darkness is commonly used to denote death, ignorance, sin, and separation from God. Isaiah described the coming of salvation as the people living in darkness seeing a great light ([Isa. 9:2](#); [Matt. 4:16](#))” (Walvoord).

Jesus is the Light that brings life. Jesus brings life in 3 ways:

- Physical Life: As previously discussed, Jesus was involved in our creation.
- Spiritual Life: Just because there is physical life, does not mean a person is spiritually alive.
  - What does it mean to be alive spiritually?
  - How can being alive spiritually in Christ affect how you live physically?
- Eternal Life
  - How is Jesus the source of eternal life ([Gal. 2:20](#))?

John’s purpose in writing his gospel was “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” ([John 20:31b](#)). How does today’s passage help in your belief in Christ?