

— WEEKLY —  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**  
**NOTES**

**Study on**  
**the Book of John**

**Introduction:** The greatest treasure found in the Book of John is the Fatherhood of God. John's most memorable achievement is his focus on God as Father- as Papa, Daddy or Dad. Throughout the book, Jesus speaks and acts in order to give a window onto the world's greatest dad. It is through this lens that we as children of God should read this powerful book.

Throughout the chapters of this gospel, we will explore various miracles, encounters and stories that build toward the magnificent drama of the death and resurrection of Jesus. By the end, we will fully understand what it means to be an adopted son or daughter of our heavenly father and how through the life of Jesus we can truly be children of God.

**Opening Prayer:**

As we begin this study of the Book of John, we ask for your help Daddy God. Help us to experience your embrace and encounter your fatherly love. Teach us what it really means to be your child, through the power of your Holy Spirit, and in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Memorization Scripture:**

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

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**Beginning Questions**

**1. Why do you think that we need to know God as our Father?**

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**2. What is/was your earthly father like that gives you positive feelings or negative feelings?**

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**3. Do you think that your experiences as a child with your earthly father influences your understanding of God?**

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**About the author:**

John was born to Zebedee, a wealthy man who owned a fishing business on the sea of Galilee and Salome, one of those to go to the tomb early on the morning the resurrection of Jesus was discovered. He had a brother named James and was a partner in the fishing business with Peter. He was one of the first disciples to be called by Jesus, Mark 1:19-21, Matthew 4:18-22 and Luke 5:2-11. He becomes known as a “son of thunder” along with his brother. He also becomes known as the beloved disciple.

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**Lesson 1: In the Beginning.**

**1. John 1:1**

- a. John starts his gospel, under the prophetic prompting of the Holy Spirit with the beginning.
  
- b. He starts with the history of the world and gives us a glimpse of what kind of Father we are dealing with.
  - i. One who reveals his heart.
  
  - ii. One who communicates with his creation.
  
  - iii. His speech is loving and life giving.
  
- c. The word translates as the ancient Greek word *Logos*. The idea of the *logos* had deep and rich roots in both Jewish and Greek thinking.
  - i. Jewish rabbis often referred to God (especially in His more personal aspects) in terms of His word. They spoke of God Himself as “the word of God.” For example, ancient Hebrew editions of the Old Testament change Exodus 19:17 (*Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God*) to “Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet the word of God.” In the mind of the ancient Jews, the phrase “the word of God” could be used to refer to God Himself.
  
  - ii. The Greek philosophers saw the *logos* as the power that puts sense into the world, making the world orderly instead of chaotic. The *logos* was the power that set the world in perfect order and kept it going in perfect order. They saw

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the *logos* as the “Ultimate Reason” that controlled all things.

- iii. Therefore in this opening John said to both Jews and Greeks: “For centuries you’ve been talking, thinking, and writing about **the Word** (the *logos*). Now I will tell you who He is.” John met both Jews and Greeks where they were at, and explained Jesus in terms they already understood.
- d. Jesus is the word that was in the beginning with the Father.
  - i. Through this word, the Father communicated with his lost and estranged children.
  - ii. If not for Jesus, we would still be groping around in the dark trying to find God. But instead, through Jesus, God finds us.
- e. Jesus was not just the word that was with God, but he was God. He is not just a human being in history, he was and is a divine being in eternity.

## 2. John 1:2

- a. Jesus was there in the beginning with God. He has always been by the Father’s side, hanging out with Papa. This is the type of relationship that Jesus models for us.
- b. This makes the point that the Father is distinct from the Son, and the Son is distinct from the Father. They are equally God, yet separate persons.

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**3. John 1:3**

- a. In the beginning, Genesis, the word says on seven occasions, “And God said...” John identifies these words as being Jesus. Meaning that Jesus was the one through which EVERYTHING was created.

**4. John 1:4**

- a. John says that there is life and light in Jesus-the-word.
  - i. Life is translated in Greek as “zoe” which we get the word zoology. Used 36 times in John to mean the abundant, spiritual life that Jesus alone can give us.
  - ii. Light is translated in Greek as “pho” which we get the word photosynthesis (putting together with light). Like plants, we depend on the light of the world, (the sun or the son) for everything we need. It brings us life.
    - 1. John 11:25
    - 2. Romans 6:23
    - 3. John 10:28