“IN HIM WAS LIFE”

John 1:1–5

Key Verse: 1:4

1. Note the repeated words/phrases in verses 1–2. Who is “the Word”? (14) What does “in the beginning” tell us about him? What do a person’s words tell us about him/her? How does this apply to Jesus, the Word? (See Heb1:1–3) Why did the author call Jesus “the Word”?[[1]](#footnote-1)

2. What is the relationship of the Word to the rest of creation? (3) What does verse 3 emphasize, and why? How does knowing this affect our worldview?

3. Read verse 4a. How does this further develop the thought of verse 3? (See also Ac3:15) How should this truth affect our view of ourselves and our earthly lives? In verse 4a, why does it say “In” instead of “From”? How can we be “in” him? (2Co5:17; Jn5:24; 10:10b; 15:4)

4. Read verse 4b. How does this apply to Jesus’ own life and ministry while on earth? How did his life on earth give light to all men? (8:12) What does it mean to “have the light of life”?

5. Read verse 5. What is the darkness referred to here? What is the other meaning of the word “understood”? (See the footnote in the Bible.) What does this tell us about how the world responds to Jesus in every generation? Why does the author suddenly use the present tense “shines”?

1. [The term “Word” used here is the Greek word “Logos”; it also meant “Reason” and was used in Greek philosophy to refer to the “First Cause” of the universe.] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)