

WORD OF GOD

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES | JOHN 1:1-18 | FEBRUARY 16/17, 2019 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
(John 1:1)*

Jesus the Word of God that Exists and Creates
(John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17)

Jesus the Word of God that Enlightens Humanity
(John 1:5-13; Proverbs 8:12, 22; Colossians 2:2-3)

Jesus the Word of God in Flesh and Bone
(John 1:14; Exodus 40:34-38; 1 John 1:1-2)

Jesus the Word of God that Surpasses the Torah
(John 1:15-18; Matthew 7:24-28; Hebrews 1:1-3)

STUDY GUIDE:

1. When have you seen someone bring "the right word at the right time" in your personal life, your family, your job, your city, or in world events?
2. This weekend we continue our series, "Name Above All Names," by exploring how Jesus is the Word of God. Begin by stilling yourself before God, then ask God to speak to you through Scripture before beginning the study.
3. Read some or all of the following Scripture passages and reflect on what God's 'word' does in each setting:
 - Genesis 1:1-3
 - Psalm 33:6
 - Psalm 107:20
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Isaiah 55:10-11
 - Joel 1:1
4. Next read John 1:1-18 aloud. The word "logos" is the Greek word for "word" here. What stands out to you in verses 1-2 about the "Word"?
5. What do verses 3-4 tell us about the role of the "Word" in the created world, and humanity's enjoyment of life?
6. With verses 5-13, we are introduced to the ways in which the "Word" brings light to humanity, as testified by John the Baptist. What sort of light did this "Word" bring?
7. Verse 14 makes clear who the "Word" is – Jesus of Nazareth – and the way in which the incarnation reveals God. What stands out to you about Jesus becoming flesh and revealing God's glory?
8. The phrase "made his dwelling among us" echoes the idea of the tabernacle in the Old Testament (see Exodus, chs. 25-30). The tabernacle was God's house amongst the people in their travels. Read Exodus 40:34-38. What do you think it means in John 1:14 that Jesus is the new tabernacle of God?
9. With John 1:16-18, we find some of the strongest statements about Jesus as the Word of God. According to these verses, who is Jesus in relation to Moses and the Law of God? Who is Jesus in relation to God Himself?
10. What is one thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

- Memorize John 1:1-5 this week.
- Read St. Augustine of Hippo on Jesus as the Word of God in his Confessions (IX.13-14): <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf101.vi.VII.IX.html>.
- Read St. John Chrysostom on Jesus as the Word of God in his Homilies on the Gospel of St. John (Homily 2): <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf114.iv.iv.html>.