

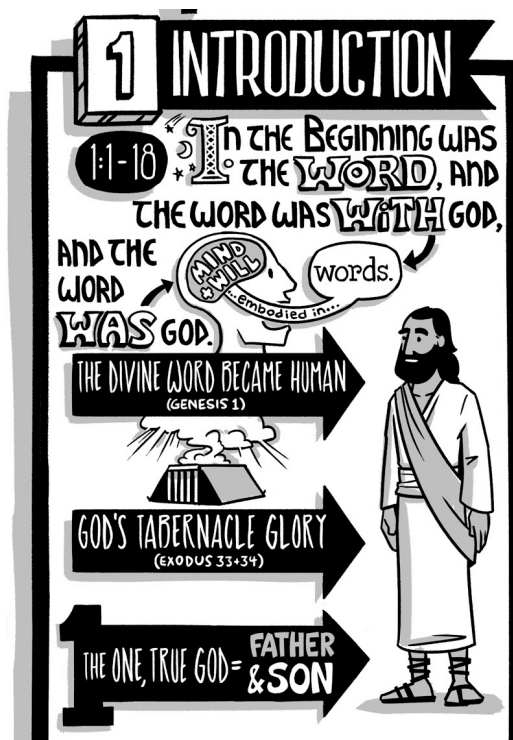
# Gospel of John Study Notes

## Introduction

We're reading through the Gospel of John as a place to begin understanding the Bible. The Apostle John adds a different perspective from Matthew, Mark, and Luke (known as the Synoptic Gospels). John includes stories that are not found elsewhere. He emphasizes the incarnation of Jesus as something we should wrap our minds around. The word incarnation is not one we use in everyday conversation, at least I don't, but it's an important concept to consider. Here's how John defined it:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*



1. TheBibleProject.com clip

Jesus was at the beginning as the Word, with God, and with the Holy Spirit. He was eternally present, rather, He is eternally present. (The whole notion of not being bound by time is hard to get my mind around.)

Incarnation means that Jesus, the Word, stepped into time and took on human flesh. John will invest quite a bit of energy trying to help us appreciate the importance of this distinction.

*Disclaimer:* I'm not a biblical scholar by any stretch, but I believe the Bible can be read and understood by anyone who is willing to take the time to read and ponder the thoughts presented. I find it completely amazing and a joy to write about! Most of my thoughts are available online via my blog or podcast for those who prefer to listen over reading:

- My blog: <https://daverphillips.com/john-introduction/>
- My podcast: <https://anchor.fm/dave-r-phillips>

There's a lot to cover, so we'll take it one step at a time. As we focus on the text each time, ask yourself, "why do I believe this?" Your answer to this question will help you sharpen your ability to share the Gospel with others.

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*<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

**1 Peter 3:15-16**

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## Some Resources

- Online Bible in many translations: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- NIV Application Commentary at Amazon.com (search for NIVAC John): [https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310497507/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_P268WRFMEC980W31P2QK](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310497507/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_P268WRFMEC980W31P2QK)
- Jim Gerrish's commentary: <http://www.wordofgodtoday.com/john-index/>
- TheBibleProject.com – More than just drawings, they have great videos and lessons

## Notes from NIV Application Commentary<sup>1</sup>

Here divinity and humanity, preexistence and incarnation, revelation and sacrifice are each discussed by John with deceptive simplicity.

Themes mentioned here will be picked up later and given fuller development:

- the preexistence of Christ (1:1; 17:5),
- divine light entering the world (1:4, 9; 8:12; 9:5),
- the opposition of light and darkness (1:5; 3:19),
- the visibility of glory (1:14; 12:41),
- Jesus as the only Son (1:14, 18; 3:16),
- divine birth (1:12–13; 3:1ff.),
- and the place of John the Baptist in Jesus' work (1:7, 15; 1:19, 30).

John identifies this Word as Jesus Christ. As such John can attribute to him various divine functions, such as creation (John 1:3, 10) and giving of life (1:4, 14, 16). In Greek the word order is even reversed (“and God was the Word”), emphasizing not that the Word contains the entirety of the Godhead, but that the divinity possessed by God is also possessed by this Word.

John 1:14 is one of the most important verses in the Bible. The Word did not just appear to be human; the Word became flesh.

The prologue to John is not about a message that offers hope, but about The Message that is the only hope. It is not about an idea, but a person. The Word became flesh tells us that God is intent on communicating with us not about mere concepts; he is intent on communicating about himself. The pitfall of the pagan world is to find hope in its own canons of thought and behavior. But history has proven the futility of this dream. The pitfall of the religious person is to think that human spiritual proclivities can bring God into reality through religious devotion and practice. John says that God takes the initiative, for God becomes flesh. God discloses himself. God enters our world bearing truth and grace in order to transform whoever will receive him.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Wilkins, Michael J. NIVAC Bundle 6: Gospels, Acts (The NIV Application Commentary). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.