STUDY BIBLE WORKBOOK

John 1

The Word Became Flesh

QUICK STUDY + DEEP DIVE

The eternal Word who created all things entered our world as Jesus Christ. John introduces Him as the source of life, the light that darkness cannot defeat, the Lamb of God who takes away sin, and the Messiah who calls people to follow Him.

Scripture quotations: World English Bible (WEB)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Study at Your Own Pace

Quick Study: Begin with a focused 15–20 minute overview of John 1. Read the chapter in your preferred translation and follow the teaching, word studies, Gospel Connection, and prayer.

Deep Dive: Continue when you are ready for verse-by-verse study. Each of seven passages includes full WEB Scripture, substantive observation, application, guided prayer, and full-width writing lines.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

CHAPTER CONTEXT

John 1 - Geographic Setting

The shaded historical map includes a sharp, original-source regional locator in the Daniel workbook style.

The red rectangle identifies roughly where the larger map falls within today's surrounding countries.



Regional location



COUNTRIES IN YEAR 2020

Red box indicates the main map area.

Locations mentioned in John 1

Nazareth (1:45-46): Jesus is identified as being from this Galilean town.

Jerusalem (1:19): The priests and Levites questioning John came from Jerusalem.

Galilee (1:43): Jesus begins moving into the northern region.

Bethsaida (1:44): The hometown of Philip, Andrew, and Peter. Exact archaeological identification is debated.

Bethany beyond the Jordan (1:28): John's baptizing location. The exact site is uncertain; an illustrated placement is not a confirmed archaeological location.

How to read the atlas

Pastel shading indicates approximate first-century political regions. Terrain relief shows mountains and valleys; blue shows water. The inset is for modern regional orientation, not ancient political boundaries.

Main atlas: original WGM illustration. Regional locator: unresized original-source image; boundaries and uncertain sites approximate.

QUICK STUDY

John 1 — The Word Became Flesh

MAIN VERSE

“The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14, WEB

BIG PICTURE

John does not begin with Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. He begins before creation. Jesus is the eternal Word, fully divine, through whom everything was made. The Word enters human history, reveals the Father, and brings life. People respond with either rejection or faith. John the Baptist testifies about Him; the first disciples begin to follow Him. The chapter calls every reader to consider not merely what Jesus teaches, but who He is.

The Word Was God (1:1–5)

Before anything was created, the Word already existed. He was with God and was God. Creation, life, and light come through Him.

The World Must Respond (1:6–13)

John the Baptist bears witness. Some reject Jesus, but those who receive Him by faith are given the right to become God’s children.

God Came Near (1:14–18)

The eternal Word truly became human, revealing the Father’s glory, grace, and truth.

John Points Away from Himself (1:19–28)

Questioned by religious leaders, John identifies himself as a voice preparing the Lord’s way.

QUICK STUDY

The Chapter’s Major Movements

The Lamb of God (1:29–34)

John identifies Jesus as the Lamb who takes away sin and the Son upon whom the Spirit remains.

Come and See (1:35–42)

Two disciples begin following Jesus; Andrew brings Simon to meet the Messiah.

Follow Me (1:43–51)

Jesus calls Philip, Nathanael responds, and Jesus promises a greater revelation of His glory.

QUICK STUDY FLOW

The Word Was God (1:1–5)

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The World Must Respond (1:6–13)

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God Came Near (1:14–18)

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John Points Away from Himself (1:19–28)

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The Lamb of God (1:29–34)

↓

Come and See (1:35–42)

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Follow Me (1:43–51)

QUICK STUDY

Important Bible Words

Word / Phrase	Simple Meaning	Why It Matters
Word (Logos)	God’s eternal self-revealing Word	John identifies the Word as divine and later as Jesus Christ.
Light / Darkness	Truth and life contrasted with evil and unbelief	Jesus brings revelation and life that darkness cannot defeat.
Believe / Receive	Trusting Jesus and welcoming Him for who He is	Faith, not ancestry or merit, is connected to becoming God’s child.
Only born / monogenēs	The Son’s unique relationship with the Father	John emphasizes Jesus’ unique identity and revelation of God.
Lamb of God	God’s provision for dealing with sin	John announces the saving mission of Jesus.
Messiah / Christ	God’s anointed king	The first disciples recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah.
Son of Man	Jesus’ self-designation with biblical background	John 1:51 portrays Jesus as the link between heaven and earth.

Translation Word Notes

Greek is a helpful study tool, not a requirement for understanding Scripture. These brief comparisons show how translators express selected terms; all full Scripture quotations in this workbook remain WEB.

Verse	Greek / Say it	NKJV	NIV	NLT	Meaning
1:5	**katalambanō** kah-tah-lahm-BAH-noh	did not comprehend	has not overcome	can never extinguish	Can carry senses of grasping and overcoming; note literary context.
1:14	**monogenēs** moh-noh-geh-NAYS	only begotten	one and only	one and only	Stresses the Son’s unique relationship; traditional rendering differs.
1:29	**airō** EYE-roh	takes away	takes away	takes away	The Lamb removes or bears away sin; a strong announcement of His mission.
1:41	**Messias / Christos** meh-SEE-ahs / khri-STOHS	Messiah / Christ	Messiah / Christ	Messiah / Christ	The Hebrew and Greek titles both mean “Anointed One.”

Pronunciation is approximate; CAPITALS mark the stressed syllable.

QUICK STUDY NOTES

QUICK STUDY

The Gospel Connection

John 1 proclaims the heart of the gospel before describing Jesus' miracles or His cross. The eternal Son came into the world He made, yet the world often refused Him. He did not remain distant from our sin and darkness. John calls Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29). The One who became flesh would give His life, rise again, and offer eternal life to those who believe (John 3:16; 20:31). Salvation is not earned by ancestry, human effort, or religious status; receiving Christ by faith marks those who become children of God (1:12–13).

Reflection: Am I trusting the Lamb of God to deal with my sin, or am I still relying on my own goodness?

A Short Prayer from John 1

Father, thank You for sending Your eternal Son into this world. Thank You that Jesus is the light darkness cannot defeat and the Lamb of God who takes away sin. Forgive me for the times I prefer my own way to Your truth. Teach me to receive Christ by faith, follow Him with humility, and invite others to come and see. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

QUICK STUDY COMPLETE

One Truth to Carry With You

Jesus is not merely a teacher to admire; He is the eternal Son of God, the Lamb who saves, and the Lord who calls me to follow Him.

READY TO GO DEEPER — NEXT PAGE

Ready to Go Deeper?

The Deep Dive uses S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Read the complete passage slowly before moving through the explanation and your own response.

S — Scripture

Read the complete WEB passage slowly. Notice repeated words and surprising statements.

O — Observation

Ask what the passage says about Jesus, God, salvation, people, belief, and obedience.

A — Application

Respond personally: what should I believe, change, trust, or do because of this text?

P — Prayer

Speak to God about what you have learned, using the short model prayer as a starting point.

Before I begin, what do I want God to help me see or understand in John 1?

Words, questions, or ideas I want to watch for as I read:

JOHN 1:1–5

The Eternal Word and the Light

S — Scripture

> 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
> 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
> 3 All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made.
> 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
> 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn’t overcome it.

John 1:1–5, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

The Gospel begins before creation, echoing Genesis 1:1. John identifies the Word as already existing, personally distinct from God the Father (“with God”), and fully divine (“was God”). The Word is not a created being; everything that came into existence was made through Him.

Life and light flow from the Word. Darkness is real, but it neither extinguishes the light nor gains final victory over it. The wording of “overcome” can also suggest failure to grasp or comprehend. John will develop the contrast between light and rejection throughout his Gospel.

This introduction prepares us to understand Jesus’ actions and words as the work of the eternal Son, not merely the teaching of an unusually wise man.

My observations:

A — Application

How does knowing that Jesus is eternal Creator and divine Lord change the way I listen to Him?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to see You as the eternal Word, the source of life and the light that darkness cannot defeat. Help me trust Your truth.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:6–13

Witness, Rejection, and New Birth

S — Scripture

> 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.
> 7 The same came as a witness, that he might testify about the light, that all might believe through him.
> 8 He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light.
> 9 The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.
> 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world didn’t recognize him.
> 11 He came to his own, and those who were his own didn’t receive him.
> 12 But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God’s children, to those who believe in his name:
> 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:6–13, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

John the Baptist is carefully distinguished from Jesus: he is a man sent by God to bear witness, not the light itself. His purpose is that people might believe through his testimony. Faith does not rest on John’s personality, but on the One to whom he points.

The world was made through the Word, yet many did not recognize or receive Him. Rejection is not the only response: those who receive Jesus by believing in His name are given the right to become children of God. John describes this new identity as birth from God, not as a privilege inherited through ancestry or produced by human effort.

The passage calls for an actual response to Jesus. Religious familiarity is not the same as receiving Him; becoming God’s child rests on God’s gracious action.

My observations:

A — Application

Have I simply heard about Jesus, or am I personally trusting Him and receiving what He offers?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You that becoming Your child is a gift of grace. Help me believe in Jesus rather than depend on my family background or effort.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:14–18

The Word Became Flesh

S — Scripture

> **14** The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.
> **15** John testified about him. He cried out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me, for he was before me.’ ”
> **16** From his fullness we all received grace upon grace.
> **17** For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
> **18** No one has seen God at any time. The only born Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared him.

John 1:14–18, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

“The Word became flesh” is the astonishing center of John’s opening. The eternal Son truly entered human life, not merely appearing human. “Lived among us” evokes God dwelling among His people. John declares that witnesses saw His glory, characterized by grace and truth.

John the Baptist again points beyond himself to Jesus’ surpassing greatness. Moses and the law are not belittled; rather, John announces the climactic revelation of God’s grace and truth in Jesus Christ. Verse 18 explains why the Son can reveal the unseen Father: He uniquely knows the Father.

Translations differ in verses 14 and 18 over the Greek word monogenēs (“only born,” “one and only,” or traditionally “only begotten”), and manuscripts vary at 1:18 between readings commonly rendered “the only Son” and “the only God.” These differences deserve notice without obscuring John’s clear testimony to Jesus’ divine identity.

My observations:

A — Application

Where do I need to receive both the grace and the truth Jesus reveals rather than choosing only one?

P — Prayer

Jesus, thank You for coming among us and making the Father known. Shape me by Your grace and truth.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:19–28

A Voice Preparing the Way

S — Scripture

> **19** This is John’s testimony, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”
> **20** He declared, and didn’t deny, but he declared, “I am not the Christ.”
> **21** They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.”
> **22** They said therefore to him, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”
> **23** He said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”
> **24** The ones who had been sent were from the Pharisees.
> **25** They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”
> **26** John answered them, “I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you don’t know.
> **27** He is the one who comes after me, who is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to loosen.”
> **28** These things were done in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1:19–28, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

Officials from Jerusalem question John the Baptist about his identity. He explicitly denies being the Messiah. He also rejects the titles “Elijah” and “the prophet” as they are put to him. His positive answer quotes Isaiah 40:3: he is a voice calling people to prepare the Lord’s way.

John’s humility is not uncertainty about his calling. He understands his task as witness and preparation, not self-promotion. His baptism points toward the greater One already standing among them, whose sandal strap John considers himself unworthy to loosen.

The setting is called “Bethany beyond the Jordan,” distinct from Bethany near Jerusalem. Its exact site is debated, so we should not confidently place it on a modern map.

My observations:

A — Application

Am I seeking attention for myself, or pointing people faithfully toward Jesus?

P — Prayer

God, give me the humility and courage of John the Baptist: to know my calling, speak truth, and make much of Christ.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:29–34

Behold, the Lamb of God

S — Scripture

> **29** The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
> **30** This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who is preferred before me, for he was before me.’
> **31** I didn’t know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water, that he would be revealed to Israel.”
> **32** John testified, saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him.
> **33** I didn’t recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘On whomever you will see the Spirit descending and remaining on him is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’
> **34** I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:29–34, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

John publicly identifies Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” The title evokes the Old Testament world of sacrificial provision and deliverance; the passage itself emphasizes Jesus as God’s answer to human sin. John does not say the world is automatically saved regardless of response, but announces the scope and sufficiency of the Lamb’s mission.

John testifies that he saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and remain on Jesus. This fulfills what the One who sent John had told him to watch for. Jesus is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit, and John’s testimony culminates in the declaration that Jesus is the Son of God.

John the Baptist’s role is eyewitness witness rather than independent savior. He identifies Jesus so Israel and the world may recognize the One sent by God.

My observations:

A — Application

What does it mean for my guilt, worship, and trust that Jesus is the Lamb of God?

P — Prayer

Lamb of God, thank You for coming to deal with sin. Teach me to rely on Your saving work and to bear faithful witness to You.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:35–42

Come and See

S — Scripture

> **35** Again, the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples,
> **36** and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”
> **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
> **38** Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, being interpreted, Teacher), “where are you staying?”
> **39** He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour.
> **40** One of the two who heard John and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.
> **41** He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is, being interpreted, Christ).
> **42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is by interpretation, Peter).

John 1:35–42, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

John the Baptist again points to Jesus, and two of his disciples begin following Him. Jesus’ first recorded question in this Gospel is searching: “What are you looking for?” He invites them to “Come and see,” leading them toward personal knowledge of Him.

Andrew, identified as Simon Peter’s brother, quickly brings Simon to Jesus. His confession that they have found the Messiah connects Jesus to Israel’s long-awaited anointed king. Jesus gives Simon the name Cephas, translated Peter, anticipating the identity and future service that will develop in the Gospel story.

Faithful testimony is often simple: one person meets Jesus and brings another to Him. The movement here is from hearing witness to encountering Jesus and sharing the discovery.

My observations:

A — Application

Who might I invite to read the Gospel of John and consider Jesus for themselves?

P — Prayer

Lord, help me answer Your invitation with trust and lead others toward You without pressure or self-importance.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 1:43–51

Follow Me and See Greater Things

S — Scripture

> **43** On the next day, he was determined to go out into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”
> **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
> **45** Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets, wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
> **46** Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”
> **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said about him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”
> **48** Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”
> **49** Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!”
> **50** Jesus answered him, “Because I told you, ‘I saw you underneath the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these!”
> **51** He said to him, “Most certainly, I tell you all, hereafter you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:43–51, WEB

O — Observation

What does this passage say? What does it teach about God, Jesus, people, faith, sin, salvation, or obedience?

Jesus calls Philip with the direct command, “Follow me.” Philip tells Nathanael that Jesus is the One written about by Moses and the prophets. Nathanael is skeptical because Jesus comes from Nazareth, but Philip answers with an invitation instead of a long argument: “Come and see.”

Jesus knows Nathanael before their encounter, and Nathanael responds with the titles “Son of God” and “King of Israel.” Jesus promises greater revelation: heaven opened and angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man. The image recalls Jacob’s vision in Genesis 28, now centered on Jesus as the meeting place of heaven and earth.

The chapter moves from eternal truths about the Word to real people meeting the Messiah. Seeing His identity rightly leads naturally to following Him.

My observations:

A — Application

What prejudice, doubt, or hesitation could keep me from responding to Jesus’ call to follow Him?

P — Prayer

Jesus, forgive my quick judgments and hesitation. Give me eyes to see who You are and a willing heart to follow You.

Pray this in your own words:

DEEP DIVE

Hard Questions

Does John 1 really say Jesus is God?

Yes. John 1:1 distinguishes the Word from the One with whom He was, while explicitly calling the Word God. Verses 3 and 14 connect that eternal, divine Word with creation and the incarnation. Historic Protestant Evangelical Christianity understands this as affirming the deity of the Son, personally distinct from the Father.

What does “the Word became flesh” mean?

It means the eternal Son truly entered human life. John does not teach that the Son stopped being divine, or that He only seemed human. The incarnation means that He became fully human while remaining fully divine. Other passages further illuminate this truth (Philippians 2:5–11; Colossians 2:9).

What about “only begotten,” “one and only,” and “only born”?

Different English translations render Greek monogenēs differently. The core emphasis is the Son’s unique relationship with the Father. John 1:18 also has a significant ancient manuscript variation often reflected as “only Son” or “only God.” It should be acknowledged rather than hidden; the wider passage clearly identifies Jesus as uniquely revealing the Father.

Did John the Baptist contradict Jesus about Elijah?

John denies being Elijah when questioned in John 1:21, while Jesus later identifies John with Elijah’s promised preparatory role (Matthew 11:14; 17:10–13). Many evangelical interpreters distinguish John’s denial of being Elijah personally or literally from his ministry “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17).

Where is Bethany beyond the Jordan?

John 1:28 describes a location beyond the Jordan where John baptized. Its precise archaeological identification remains debated. The workbook will not pin an uncertain location as a settled fact.

Does “Lamb of God” mean everyone is automatically saved?

The phrase declares the scope and significance of Jesus’ saving mission. John also repeatedly calls people to believe in the Son (1:12; 3:16–18; 20:31). It does not teach that trust in Christ is unnecessary.

Why does Jesus mention angels ascending and descending?

John 1:51 recalls Jacob’s vision of heaven and earth connected in Genesis 28:10–17. Jesus presents Himself as the Son of Man through whom God’s presence and revelation come. The chapter does not give every detail of how Nathanael immediately understood the image.

DEEP DIVE

Reflection

What difference does it make that the One who calls me to follow Him is the eternal Word through whom all things were made?

Where am I tempted to choose darkness, self-reliance, or rejection rather than receive Jesus and His truth?

What does the title “Lamb of God” reveal about my greatest need and God’s provision for that need?

How can I follow the example of John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip in pointing others toward Jesus?

DEEP DIVE

A Prayer to Know and Follow Jesus

Heavenly Father, I praise You for revealing Your glory in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. Thank You that through Him all things were made and that in Him are life and light. Forgive me for overlooking His greatness, resisting Your truth, and trusting myself instead of Your grace. Thank You for the Lamb of God who takes away sin. Help me receive Your Son with genuine faith, follow His call, and speak about Him with humility and courage. Let the truths of John 1 shape my worship, choices, and witness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

ONE TRUTH TO CARRY WITH YOU

Jesus is not merely a teacher to admire; He is the eternal Son of God, the Lamb who saves, and the Lord who calls me to follow Him.

Final Notes