JESUS, THE LIGHT OF 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? Why do we need to know this right from the start?

2. Why did the author use the term “the Word” to refer to Jesus? [The term “Word” was the Greek word “Logos”; it also meant “Reason” and was used in Greek philosophy to refer to the “First Cause” of the universe.] Generally, what do words tell us about a person? How does this apply to Jesus, the Word? (See Heb1:1–3)

3. 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?

4. Read verse 4a. To whom does this refer? How does this further develop the thought of verse 3? In Acts 3:15 Jesus is called “the author of life.” How should this truth affect our view of ourselves and our earthly lives?

5. Read verse 4a again. Why is the word “In” used instead of “From”? (2Co5:17; Jn5:24; 10:10b; 15:4) What can we learn from these verses about how we can be “in” him?

6. Read all of verse 4. 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”?

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