

Christians say that the Bible is the Word of God; but what do we mean by that and how do we understand the words of these ancient texts to be the voice of God?

the Bible is the life-giving revelation of God immersing us in the true story of God's faithful love so that we become more like Jesus as we grow in recognizing God, ourselves, and the world around us

verses 1-2 — the Word in connection to _____

verses 3-8 — the Word in connection to _____

verses 9-13 — the Word in connection to _____

verses 14-18 — the Word in connection to _____

the _____ principle

the _____ principle

the _____ principle

the _____ principle

the _____ principle

the Bible: reading for understanding



John 1:1–18 (NIV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning.

³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

the Bible:
reading for understanding

John 1:1-18



Understanding the Bible:

What is the problem being expressed in this Bible passage?

How does God show up in this Bible Passage?

To whom is today's Bible passage referring as the Word became flesh?

My favorite song today:

Things I will pray for this week:

The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1–18)

(Can you find the highlighted words?)

C O N C E R N I N G M I
L K A J G I V E N L O M
F S M D B J T I C O N A
F A E B E E N W O R L D
G O T G L N Y L M Y Y E
S R C H I L D R E N C A
W E A G E R A T S G A V
E I E C V R R E N T M J
M B T N E M K S F L E O
B O R N G G N T R U T H
T J S R E C E I V E L N
L I G H T S S F G K R L
V L I F E O S Y W O R D

In the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was with God in the **beginning**. Through him all things were **made**; without him nothing was **made** that has **been made**. In him was **life**, and that **life** was the **light** of all mankind. The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God

whose **name** was **John**. He **came** as a **witness** to **testify concerning** that **light**, so that through him all might **believe**. He himself was not the **light**; he **came only** as a **witness** to the **light**. The true **light** that gives **light** to everyone was coming into the **world**. He was in the **world**, and though the **world** was **made** through him, the **world** did not recognize him. He **came** to that which was his own, but his own did not **receive** him. Yet to all who did **receive** him, to those who believed in his **name**, he gave the right to become **children** of God—**children born** not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born** of God. 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** testified **concerning** him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who **comes** after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ") Out of his fullness we have all received **grace** in place of **grace** already **given**. For the law was **given** through Moses; **grace** and **truth** **came** through Jesus Christ. No one has ever **seen** God, but the one and **only** Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the **Father**, has **made** him known.