

## God Time Day 1: John's Approach



John takes a very different approach to the Christmas story because he wants people to understand that Jesus is more than just a man, Jesus is God.



Read John 20:31.

*But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Underline the words “*you may have life.*”

While Jesus is fully man, he is also fully God. The salvation and life we have in Jesus do not come from a mere man, but from God. It is for that reason that John's Gospel takes a very different approach to the Christmas story.

Pray for God to prepare your heart to see who Jesus truly is, and to keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas.

## God Time Day 2: Who Is the Word?



Read John 1:1.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*



Circle each instance of the word “*Word.*”

According to John, he uses the term “*Word*” as a name for Jesus, establishing that “*the Word*” is both a distinct person and one with the triune God.



Now read John 1:14.

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John has established that the “*Word was God,*” and then describes the Word as becoming human and living among people, making clear that the Word is Jesus.

Take some time to reflect and meditate on the significance of God living among us as a human.

## God Time Day 3: Jesus is the Word



John puts great effort into establishing Jesus' identity as God. He makes a point of describing Jesus (“*the Word*”) as being both distinct from God the Father and the same as God. This is important because it reveals the nature of God.

Normally, when we hear the term “*the Word,*” it refers to the Bible. The Bible is how a great and awesome God, who seems so big and unknowable, reveals Himself to His people. God reveals Himself to us through *the Word*. God wants us to know Him. He reveals Himself to us.

Reread John 1:14 from yesterday.

Underline the phrase “*we observed his glory.*”



Now read Hebrews 1:1-3.

*<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. <sup>2</sup> In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Underline the phrase “*the exact expression of his nature.*”

In the Old Testament, Israel turned away from God and worshiped idols numerous times. We might ask the question “What is the appeal of idol worship?” Well, God is a big God, and sinful humans can think it is difficult to connect and relate to a God who is unseen. While idols were false gods, relating to them on a human level could somehow seem tangible, and simpler.

This is why Jesus living among us is so significant. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God, the ultimate image, or icon, of God. If you want to understand God, it is made easy because now we get to look to Jesus, who is God.

Spend some time giving thanks in prayer to God for revealing Himself through Jesus.

## God Time Day 4: Jesus is God



Read John 1:1-2.

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.*

Do John's words sound familiar? Perhaps they remind you of the Creation story in Genesis. The reason John's Gospel sounds so different from the others is that John wants people to understand that the story of Jesus begins long before the manger, long before the beginning of time itself.

Underline the phrase "*in the beginning*" in verses 1 and 2.

One of the most significant things we need to understand about Jesus being God is that Jesus is eternal, just like God. Jesus has been around since before the beginning. We need to realize that since Jesus is eternal, He knows and understands our lives and our world better than we do; after all, He has been around since the beginning.

Whenever we experience struggles and difficulties in life, we can tend to address God as if He "didn't see that coming." But God understands even better than we do. God has seen everything play out since the creation of the world, and He understands how things will continue to play out in the future. How can God understand our struggles and hardships? Jesus, who is God, lived a human life; He experienced pain, temptation, betrayal, and struggle to an extent that many of us can only imagine.



Now read Colossians 1:19-20.

*<sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

What does it mean for you to have a God who understands your struggles better than you?

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## God Time Day 5: Created and Sustains All Things



Read John 1:3.

*All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.*

Yesterday, we learned that Jesus understands our lives even better than we do because He is eternal and has been around since before the beginning of creation. But that is not the full extent of His understanding. He is the actual creator of all created things.



Read Colossians 1:16-17.

*<sup>16</sup>For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.*

Underline the phrase "*all things have been created through him and for him.*"

Imagine that you were building a skyscraper. If you have questions, you can ask one of the construction crew or, you can ask the architect/designer. While the construction worker may understand how things are supposed to be built, the architect understands the purpose behind every detail of the design – not just the how, but the why.

Jesus understands us because He created us. Not only did Jesus create us and live among us, as one of us, but He designed us. He created every one of us for a purpose and designed us uniquely to serve in His plan for this world.

We might wonder, "Then why is everything so broken in the world?" Simple. Things fall apart not because of our design, but rather because we try to live according to a purpose other than what Jesus designed us for. It is like trying to eat soup with a fork: the fork was just not designed for that purpose.

As we enter this Christmas season, perhaps the real gift you should ask for (pray for) is knowing God's purpose for your life today and every day to come. (Also, don't miss Week 2)