

Gospel of John 1:1-10

New American Standard Version

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
2 with God, and the Word was God. He was in the
3 beginning with God. All things came into being
4 through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into
5 being that has come into being. In Him was life, and
6 the life was the Light of men. The Light **shines** in the
7 darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
8 There came a man **sent from God** whose name was
9 John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,
10 so that all might believe through him. He was not the
11 Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. There
12 was the true Light which, coming into the world,
13 enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the
14 world was made through Him, and the world did not
15 know Him.

Read through the entire passage once, then read again and mark the following features:

Underline everything the passage says about “the Word.”

Circle everything the passage says about the man named John.

Box everything the passage says about “the Light.”

Summarize (no more than three words each) what the passage says about the Word, the man named John, and the Light:

Word: _____

John: _____

Light: _____

How does the writer relate these to each other? What is the connection between the Word and the Light? What is the connection between John and the Light?

Why do you think the writer moves from describing the Word to describing the Light? What are similarities and differences between the two symbols?

[Spoiler alert]

If you didn't suspect that the passage was describing Jesus, what would you think the writer was talking about?

With this as a beginning, what would you expect the rest of the book to be like?

As you read this passage, what other questions come to mind? What are you curious about?

Other discussion questions:

Why does the writer describe creation near the beginning and the end of this passage?

How are the Word and the Light related to creation?

What does darkness not comprehending Light mean? (line 7)

Other translations: suppressed, overpowered, overcome, defeated, understood

Usually indicates an unusual word, not an absolute correspondence with any English word

How does the Light “enlighten every man” (line 13) yet the world does not know Him (line 15)?

What does enlighten mean? “illuminate” perhaps?