

1. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you first hear chapter 1 and the words "In the beginning...?" Why does John start this way?

2. What does this passage teach us about "the Word"?

3. What are some possible backgrounds for John's language in this Chapter? What would John's first readers have connected it with?

3.a. \_\_\_\_\_ -

3.b. \_\_\_\_\_ -

3.c. \_\_\_\_\_ -

3.d. \_\_\_\_\_ -

5. How does our understanding about God go awry when we try to think about him apart from Jesus?

6. When the light comes and reveals the darkness for what it is, what is the response of the darkness? How do we see this response in our world today? In our own lives?

7. How does believing in the name of Jesus transform us?

8. What is so controversial about the Incarnation? How does this affect the way we approach God?

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us. (Chalcedonian Creed, AD 451)