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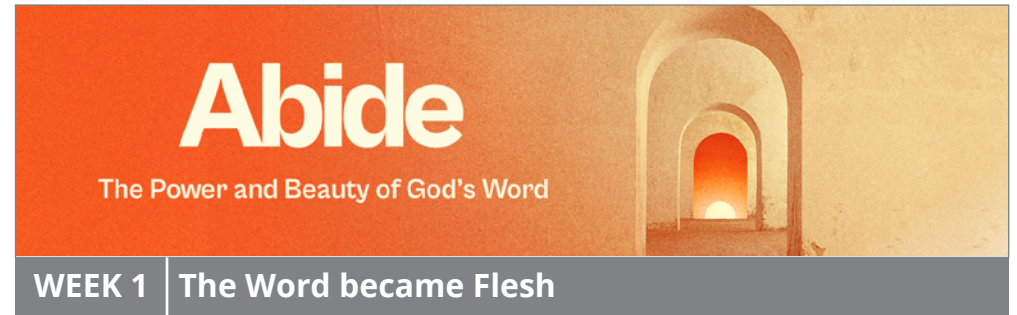
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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was made flesh and came to dwell among us as the unique and only begotten Son of God, who alone qualifies to be our Redeemer. Thank you the he was born into the human race as a man - fully God, yet fully man - so that by his death and resurrection, he could become the singular substitute for the sin of the world. Thank you that by grace, through faith in him, I have been redeemed - to him be all praise and glory, Amen.

- Knowing Jesus

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Who is someone that, when you're with them, makes you feel special? How do they do that?

NOTES

WORD

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

[JOHN 1:1-5, 9- 14, 16-18](#)

"So when we come to [John 1:1](#), 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,' we will not stop there, tear it out of its context, and fit it into a worldview that tries to transcend the flesh with meditation and mantras and yoga. No, we will read all the way to verse [14](#) and beyond: 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.'

This is why the word through which we are born again cannot be a mantra. It became flesh and dwelt among us and lived a perfect life and died in our place and bore the wrath of God and rose physically from the dead, and now comes to us in a historical narrative called the gospel. The Word was God. But the Word became flesh. And the story of his saving work—the gospel, the word of God—is the way Jesus Christ, the Word, comes to us and regenerates us and renews us. We hear this word, and by grace, we understand this word, and receive this word, and are born again by this word. And we never, never, never try—by mantras or any other means—to empty our minds of this word. Never..."

- John Piper

Faith: Unique and Fruitful Effect of the New Birth (Reflections on [John 1:1-14](#))

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never able; 10 = always able), how would you rate your ability to control your words? Why do you rate yourself this way?
2. When you are around other people, what impression do you want to leave with them?
3. Jesus came down to us as the promised One in flesh to bare what we deserved on the cross at Calvary at the end of his life. How important is this to you?
4. Can God's glory and truth be seen in your life? Why or why not?
5. When referencing Jesus in verse 14, John describes him as the Word who became flesh. If Jesus is the Word who was there at the beginning of all creation, and has become flesh, how do you think that impacts history and all of creation?
6. Have you put your trust in God with your life and relationships? Would you like to receive the gift of life, found in forever walking with God? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER