

**Date of Writing:** Discovery of certain papyrus fragments dated around AD 135 require the gospel of John to have been written, copied, and circulated before then. And, while some think it was written before Jerusalem was destroyed (AD 70), AD 85—90 is a more accepted time for the writing of the gospel of John.

**Purpose of Writing:** The author cites the purpose of the gospel of John as follows: *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”* (John 20:31). Unlike the three Synoptic Gospels, John’s purpose is not to present a chronological narrative of the life of Christ but to display His deity. John sought to strengthen the faith of believers and bring about faith in others, but he also sought to correct a false teaching that was spreading in the first century.

1. Why is Jesus described as “the Word” in verse 1, and what does John say about Him?
2. What role did the ‘Word’ play in creation according to verse 3? Read also Genesis 1:1-2. What link is John making?
3. How is life and light described in verses 4-5? What does it mean for your life today that Jesus is both the light and that he overcomes darkness.
4. Why do you think the testimony of John the Baptist is included in verses 6-8? What would this have meant to the original audience?
5. Why did the world not recognise or receive the Word (verses 10-11)? What do people not recognise about Jesus today? How can we help people see who Jesus is today? When have you seen people come to know Jesus more?
6. What does verse 12 say happens to those who receive the Word?
7. What does it mean to be “born of God” in verse 13?
8. What does verse 14 mean when it says “the Word became flesh”? Why is the idea that the Word became flesh so central to the Christian faith? Read Hebrew 2:14-18
9. How does John describe Jesus’ glory in verse 14?
10. What contrast is made between Moses and Jesus in verses 16-17? Why does John contrast the two?
11. How do you experience grace upon grace (verse 16) in your relationship with Jesus?
12. What does verse 18 teach us about knowing God?
13. How can you know God more in your life? What changes do you need to make to know him even more?

## Prayer Points

Please pray for the ongoing recovery in Myanmar after the earthquake.

Pray for the Catholic and Anglican Church as they both search for new leaders. Pray for those involved in the appointment process, that they may know God's leading and guiding.

Pray for the BMS Council, which is seeking to internationalise its membership. Pray that this will strengthen relationships with churches in the UK and in the countries where BMS works.

## Sermon Notes

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



# BIBLE STUDY

May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

**The God who is:**

**John 1:1-18**

John 1–7 presents key themes that reveal Jesus' identity and mission. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, bringing light and life to a dark world. He calls people to believe in Him for eternal life, but many reject Him despite His miracles and teachings. A central theme is new birth—spiritual transformation through the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers living water and calls Himself the Bread of Life, showing He alone satisfies the soul. These chapters also highlight growing conflict and division, as people respond to Him with belief, confusion, or hostility. Through signs and deep conversations, Jesus reveals His divine nature and the offer of salvation to all, regardless of background or status.