



Word
January 9, 2022
John 1:1-5

Connect

- Name a single word that has been influential in your life. Maybe it caught you at just the right time and you've since noticed it everywhere you go. What is the power of a single word?
- If you've already drawn your Star Word in worship or had the church mail you one, share your word with the group (*if you are ready to do so*). Share some initial thoughts about how that word might guide you into 2022.

Engage

- Read *John 1:1-5*. This pericope is part of what scholars call "*The Prologue*" – a separate introduction to the greater literary work ahead. It is a chance for the writer to set the tone for the story soon to be encountered. What do you think John accomplishes in this prologue?
- Christians often refer to the Bible as "*The Word*." John isn't speaking of the Bible in his use of the Word. The Bible didn't exist at the time of his writing. *The Word*, in John's use, refers to Jesus himself. Discuss the implications of this.
- John doesn't have a traditional birth narrative account like Matthew and Luke. Instead, he offers this theological discourse about the foundations of the world, who God is, and what God-made-flesh came to do. Why do you feel he approached his Gospel this way as opposed to a birth narrative?
- There is a clear pivot-point set with this WORD of which John speaks. The Word came to bring LIFE. The world was one way. Then Jesus. Then the world was ever changed. Have you ever had such a transformational experience where all that happened before that moment was defined as one thing, and everything that happened after that moment was something altogether new? If so, describe your experience and how it transformed you.
- If you had to name one thing you're looking for in 2022, what is it and why?

Next Steps

- Create some intentional time and space to spend with your Star Word. Study its origin and various meanings. Consider the synonyms and ways you find it used in the world. Do a word search in scripture to see where your word appears in the Bible and how it is most often used. Use your word as a tool for prayer, asking God's wisdom and guidance as to how it might speak to you in a new way. Finally, place your word in a place you can regularly encounter it as a point of accountability.

Pray

- "*What's in a word, O God? John tells us that 'In the beginning was the WORD – and it was you.'* Help us to embrace the power of a single word to transform our hearts, minds, spirits and actions. May it be so. Amen."