

## **“All I Want for Christmas is...Hope”**

*John 1:1-5*

### **Opening Question(s)** – Choose one

- What tradition or practice helps get/put you “in the Christmas spirit”?
- What are you looking forward to (or concerned about) most this Christmas?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. **Read John 1:1-5.** What does it mean that “In the beginning was the Word”?

Why do you think John begins his story of Jesus so much before the other gospels do (cf. John 8<sup>58</sup>)?

2. For Jewish and Greek audiences at the time, what are the different implications of calling Jesus “the Word” ([logos](#))?
3. How do verses 1-2 present both the *divinity* and *distinctness* of the “Word” and “God the Father”? What is the nature of their relationship (cf. verse 18)?
4. What role in creation is attributed to the Word in verse 3 (cf. Col. 1<sup>16</sup>)?

How does this verse challenge the idea that the universe came into existence from nothing (on its own)?

5. In what way(s) is Jesus the source of “life” (v.4)?
6. What does it mean to be the “light of all mankind” (cf. Ps. 27<sup>1</sup>; Ps. 36<sup>9</sup>)?
7. How do the concepts of light and darkness in this passage (and in John’s gospel) represent a spiritual struggle (cf. John 3<sup>2a, 19-21</sup>)?
8. How does verse 5 offer hope and strength during difficult times or in the face of widespread evil in the world?
9. How would you explain the core message of John 1:1-5 to a non-believer or someone unfamiliar with Christianity?