



Discussion Notes

Arrivals: The Eternal Word's Work • John 1:1-5

December 14, 2025 • Luke Knight

As first seen in the prologue, we derive from John's gospel many grand themes which undoubtedly come to the fore at Christmas: light, life, glory, arrivals, receptions, home-making, and abundance to name a few. Matthew and Luke give us their versions of a historical nativity (with angels, shepherds, magi, and the like), but John's wider lens poetically sums up what's simply hard to *describe* about Jesus' arrival, character, and purpose.

As Kirsten shared last week, John doesn't refer to Jesus as the Word throughout his biography, but he does so here. Calling Jesus the Word points to the way Jesus reveals God to the world. Last week, Kirsten encouraged us to think about what a word does — how a word functions. A word communicates meaning. The Hebrew Scriptures were full of words that described the Lord God, but Jesus arrived as that living Word. *Jesus is the Word for God*, or as Jesus puts it, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."
— John 1:3

Today's focus: *What God made, God loves. What God loves, God re-makes.*

What Words Do / Making

- In Genesis 1, we hear that God *spoke* creation into being. Repeatedly we hear the phrase, "and God said." Simple but crucial to remember in Genesis, and therefor also in John, is that *words make things*.
- When Jesus speaks the natural world is ordered or reordered, chaos is controlled, people are healed or set free. Why? Because words make things. And though we know *our* words can make things, with Jesus, word-making happens through him on a cosmic level.
- As we read his gospel, John says that Jesus walked in a special authority not because he had a super-human knack with diction, nor a magical way with words. John intends us to see Jesus as he is, the very agent of creation himself. Jesus is himself the living Word, and when he moves things are made, unmade and change, because Jesus is and was *the* Creator God. Part of what we need to understand here in John 1 is not only that Jesus was *present* at creation, but that he was the very means of it.

- It's important at Christmas to see Jesus as he truly is, never reducing him to the size of a decorative nativity figurine. In fact, the reducing of Jesus into a cuddly cliché might be one of the dangers of Christmas. It is possible, as we read in John, not to see Jesus as he truly is, not to recognize him. So, before Christmas draws us to *adoration*, we must first begin with *recognition*.

What Words Do / Re-Making

- Christmas isn't just about making, because Jesus made it all. Christmas is also about re-making. At Christmas, because of Jesus, we remember that God loved the world so deeply that he rolled up his sleeves to do for his creation what only he could. Jesus' life, death, and life again, began creation's great re-making and renewal. From the inside out, a light and life grew from Jesus which has only expanded. So, we can both marvel at Jesus as the *means* of creation, but more so as the world's saviour who has brought about *new creation*. Jesus makes and re-makes. John wants us to see Jesus as the very one who put all life in motion, and who is pulling it through, even now, into renewal.
- Because Jesus was born, lived, died and rose, a new creation project began. Because of Jesus, a new creation life is spreading through our world today as we wait for a great and final renewal.
- If you've trusted Jesus, you're bursting with new life, a part of his new creation project. You've got the same Spirit in you which breathed life onto the earth itself. As the Apostle Paul write, the same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead, also lives in you. What God made he loves, and what he loves he renews.
- We celebrate Christmas because of God's love, and Jesus is God's love spelled out clearly in a life so glaringly influential we're still talking about him today. This Christmas, take time to remember Jesus as he is. See him with clarity, as the Holy Spirit reveals. And as you do so, remember your place in creation. Remember who made you, who loves you and who has re-made you. *"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*

Discussion Questions:

- What is becoming clear to you this Christmas as we reflect on Jesus through John's gospel together?
- What's the danger of reducing or minimizing Jesus at Christmas?
- What is your experience of knowing God's love this year? What is coming through?