

Monday: The Beginning

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

THINK

All things have a beginning. Your time at camp has a beginning, and there is much that lies ahead for you. History is full of important beginnings. The Twinkie, one of America's snack icons, had its beginning over 75 years ago when its creator James Dewar was seeking a way to help a struggling bakery find a new product to sell. His idea was to take the company's strawberry rolls and fill them with a creamy banana filling. That beginning in 1930 has led to over 500 million Twinkies sold around the world each year.

This devotional you hold in your hands takes you back to one of the two major beginnings found in the Bible. The first beginning was in Genesis 1:1 when God created the world. God spoke and it was (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, and 24). The second is in John 1:1 where you learn about the Word who was with God at

the beginning of it all. And John chapter one teaches that God's "Word" is Jesus Christ.

Today's passage teaches you that Jesus was eternally with God in the beginning and in fact is God. Jesus existed as the Word before the world was created. He has always existed. With him there is no beginning. Through him all that you see in creation was made, and in him is life. As you go through your studies in this book you will be confronted with the unique life of Jesus of Nazareth and all that he did and accomplished.

Over the next two weeks you will discover more about who he is and why his earthly beginning is so important to you. What you believe about Jesus determines your destiny (John 17:3). You will be guided to ask questions, seek answers, and trust in him who is life.

SEARCH

Maybe you have heard a lot about Jesus, but can you believe what the Bible says about him?

Read 1 John 1:1-4. Was Jesus real? What type of words does the apostle John use in this passage that stress the reality of Jesus?

Can you think of anything that would be more reliable than an eyewitness?

Jesus is eternal, meaning that he has existed from the beginning and was never created. What are some important things about Jesus found in Colossians 1:15-20?

Further Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:1-13

APPLY

What are some important beginnings for you?

How is Jesus' beginning different from other beginnings?

Your view of Jesus and what you believe about him will radically affect the way you live your life. What difference does Jesus being God make?

PRAY

As you begin your stay at camp, ask God to use this week to show you more of who he is and what he offers you in Jesus Christ.