

## John 1:1-14 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

<sup>4</sup> through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

<sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness  
to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone  
would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the light, but his  
mission was to testify concerning the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.

<sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.

<sup>12</sup> But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,

<sup>13</sup> born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

## Reflecting on God's Word

Six prompts to discuss:

1. Luke begins his gospel by telling the story of the birth of Jesus. John, however, begins by echoing the creation story in Genesis with Jesus as the "Word" that has been present since the very beginning. Reread verses 1-5. How is John's creation story similar or different from Genesis 1?
2. Read verse 14 as a group. What does it mean to you to think of Jesus as the Word that "became flesh and made his home among us (v. 14)"? In the Message translation, it says Jesus "moved into the neighborhood." What would it be like to have Jesus as your neighbor?
3. Verse 5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light." On Christmas Eve, we light candles as the darkness of night enters in. We are proclaiming that Christ's light is stronger than the dark. What does this say about our faith in Jesus?
4. Where has the light of Christ been shining in your life this year? What aspects of the life around you have you been most drawn to notice?
5. What is Christ's light showing you in the people and events around you? How has it changed your relationship with God and with other people?
6. What is your takeaway from this scripture? What are you charged to do, think, or feel today?