

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.

Welcome to the beginning of camp! Camp is a great place to think about God. In the midst of all the fun and activity, take time to do this—get alone, be quiet, read something from the Bible, think about God. Do you know that what you think about God is very important? Really! It's true.

Camp is also a great place to learn about Jesus Christ, perhaps to believe in him for the first time or come to know him better. What exactly are your views of Jesus? Who do you think he is? What did he do when he was on earth 2,000 years ago? There are a lot of different views about Jesus and how his life is important to us today. Some of them sound reasonable, and some of them sound pretty crazy. But the Bible presents a view that is very different from all the others. Over the

next two weeks, you'll be encouraged in this devotional book to learn what the Bible has to say about Jesus and what that means for you.

The Apostle John begins his book by showing us that Jesus is the Word (read the verses at the top of this page). As you read this, you can't help but notice that the person he is talking about is unlike you and me. If you continue reading in John 1, it becomes even clearer that the Word is Jesus Christ.

What this means is that Jesus existed as the Word before the world was created. He has always existed. With him there is no beginning. Always and eternally, Jesus is God.

WRITE

- Read John 8:58-59. What does Jesus say about himself in verse 58?

- How did the Jews understand what he said (verse 59)?

- Look up Colossians 1:16-17. What do these verses say about Jesus that shows he never had a beginning?

PRAY

One way to think about prayer is that it is simply talking to Jesus. He's eternal and he created you, so you can be assured that he hears your prayers. Spend some time today simply telling him how amazed you are that he is eternal and that he is so unlike you.

LIVE

What you learn in each of these devotions over the next two weeks should make a difference in how you live—what you think, how you speak, what you do, the things you love. The main thing you can do to apply today's verses is to have an increasing awareness of the difference between you and Jesus. You are a created being; he is eternal God. Try to pause at least three times today to remind yourself of how amazing Jesus is and how different he is from you.

