

JOHN

The Word Became Flesh

1 ^① In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

^② He was with God in the beginning.

^③ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

^④ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

^⑤ The light **shines** in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

^⑥ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

^⑦ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

^⑧ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

^⑨ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

^⑩ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

^⑪ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

^⑫ Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

^⑬ children born not of natural **descent**, nor of human **decision** or a **husband's** will, but born of God.

^⑭ The Word became flesh and made his **dwelling** among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of

the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶ Out of his **fullness** we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in **closest relationship** with the Father, has made him known.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and **Levites** to ask him who he was.

²⁰ He did not **fail to confess**, but **confessed freely**, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent

²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.