



### John 1:1-5 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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For as long as I can remember, tools have been commonplace around the house. Some of my early memories involve handing my daddy this or that while he worked on the car or truck. One memory, which was actually a reoccurring experience, involved a light of some sort: flashlight, droplight, spotlight, etc. Being able to see in not only dark, but also awkward circumstances was (and still is) very important to him. The challenge? Placing the beam of light right where *he* wanted it instead of where *I* could see the best. Being able to see is important and proper illumination (in the right place) goes a long way in making that happen.

Illumination is one of the themes of the prologue to John's gospel, but not the kind which comes from batteries, electricity, or fire. The words are reminiscent of those found in the opening lines of Scripture ("In the beginning God...") and they speak not of a thing, but of a Person who is the source of life which supplies light. It is the quality of light which enables us to negotiate the difficult paths of this life and helps us to see through the fog of chaos and confusion which influences much of our world. Of greatest importance is the certainty that this light enables us to see God for who God truly is. Instead of narrating the story of Jesus' birth with a stable, shepherds, and angels, John took a more theological route in order to clarify who Jesus is and why this matters for humanity.

**This light reassures the soul of God's ongoing presence.**  
**This light makes us aware of God's recreative process.**  
**This light dispels the darkness with God's illuminating power.**

**Prayer Pebble:** God of Light and Life, thank you for entering the darkness of this world and enabling me to find my way. Amen.