IN THE BEGINNING

The concept of “beginning” is biblical. Apart from the Godhead, everything (animate and inanimate, corporeal and incorporeal, visible and invisible) had a beginning. In short, creation had a beginning. That beginning had a time and a source. While the Bible gives no date for the first act of creation (which would certainly have included the creation of heavenly beings), nor for the creation recorded in Genesis 1, it clearly identifies the source. That source, or beginning, is God! He is the Father of beginnings (except the beginning of sin).

How did God begin the creation of this planet called earth? He began with light on day one. All subsequent creative acts done in the first week were done in the light made on day one. That light was created by the Word. The Word is light!

This has profound implications for the followers of God, who should ask at all times, “Am I following God’s pattern of creation?” In human terms, the creation or building of a life involves aspects of education, romance, marriage, family, finances, career, retirement, and so on. Each should have as its beginning the light of God’s word. This is how the child of God applies the priceless, life-saving wisdom, “In all thy ways acknowledge him” (Prov. 3:6, KJV). Begin with light! It guides, counsels, rebukes, warns, instructs, sanctifies, and saves.

Those who, through Christ, are recreated in the image of God should act like God by beginning all that they do with light . . . the light of God’s word.

The path that begins in light and continues in light will most surely terminate in heaven.
Write out John 1:1–13 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in John 1:1–13. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

In what ways do you understand the Sabbath to be a moral commandment?

How does the universality of the creation account underscore your understanding of the universality of the Sabbath command?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying all of John 1:1–13? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you see the world polarizing in matters of religion?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab01-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the background of the letter to the Hebrews?

Revelation 14:6–11  
Genesis 2:1–3  
Ezekiel 9:4  
Isaiah 66:23  
Daniel 7:23–25  
Revelation 13:1–9

What other verses come to mind in connection with John 1?

Meditate on John 1:1–13 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Do you feel differently about the Sabbath depending on whether you view it as worshiping God the Father or Jesus?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab01-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your family, studies, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sab01-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are areas in your life that need to begin with light?

What are the ramifications of a universal Sabbath?

How can you better incorporate the virtues of loyalty, duty, commitment, and faithfulness in your devotions, worship, and spirituality?

What were the past barriers to Sabbath-keeping that are different from present-day barriers?

How do all these barriers look from the perspective of eternity?

How can we experience more of the power of God through the seventh-day Sabbath?

Why is the celebration of the Sabbath the celebration of the eternity of Jesus Christ? If this isn’t so for you, why isn’t it yet?