

What's the Word?

John 1:1-5

James 3:2-6

Famous first words ...

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**It was a
dark and
stormy
night ...**





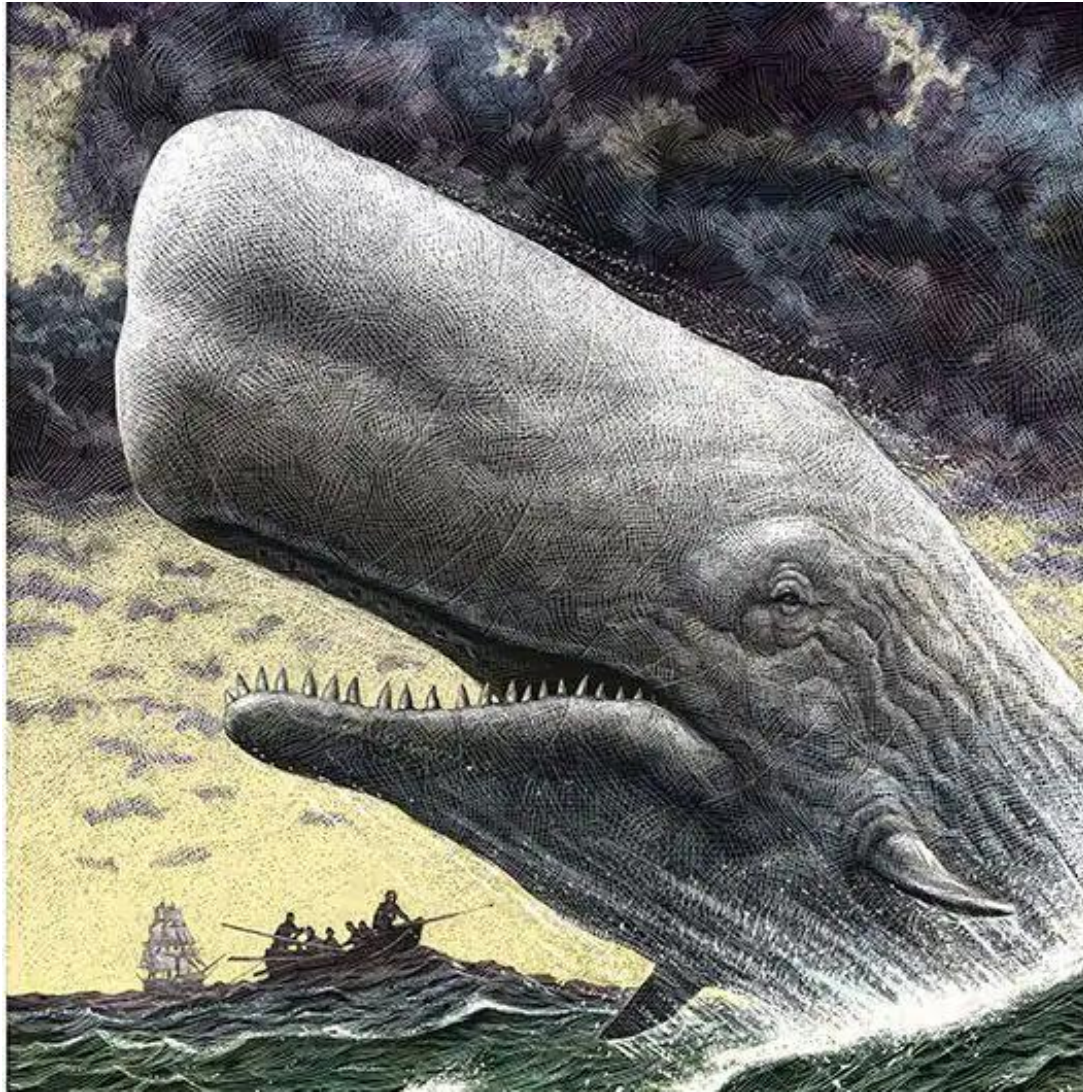
“Once upon a time ...”



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...”



“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.”



“Call me Ishmael.”

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *(John 1)*

WORD (*noun*)

A unit of language, consisting of one or more spoken sounds or their written representation, that functions as a principal carrier of meaning.

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *(Romans 5)*

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. *(Hebrews 1)*

² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. *(James 3)*

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. *(James 3)*

5 (cont.) Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. *(James 3)*

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. *(Ephesians 4)*

49 For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say. *(John 12)*

Challenge #1:

Christ's parables, such as the parable of the Prodigal Father, communicated the truth of what God really is like – His unfathomable grace, love, mercy and forgiveness for us. Are we leaning into the truth of who God is and how He feels about us?

Challenge #2:

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection all communicated the true nature of who God is (once again, His grace, love, mercy and forgiveness). How can we live our lives in such a manner that everything about us communicates who He is?

Challenge #3:

Our words have power, for good or for evil.

Can we so depend on the Father that our words will be used to build others up, and not tear them down? Can we get to know Him so well that, like Jesus, we speak only those words He has told us to say?