

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

BIBLE BASIS: John 1:1–14

BIBLE TRUTH: Jesus has always been in existence.

MEMORY VERSE: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14, KJV).

LESSON AIM: By the end of this lesson,

we will: **KNOW** the importance of the divinity and humanity of Jesus; **TRUST** in a Savior who is eternal and shares the divine nature with God; and **IMAGINE** and **SHARE** how Jesus is the Light in our lives and in the world.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: John 1:1–14—Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION

MATERIALS NEEDED: Bibles (several different versions), Quarterly Commentary/Teacher Manual, Adult Quarterly, teaching resources such as charts, worksheets/handouts, paper, pens, and pencils.

OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED / TEACHER'S NOTES:

LESSON OVERVIEW

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON

To understand that Jesus is fully divine and fully human.

BIBLE LEARNING

To remember that Jesus was personally involved in creation from the beginning.

BIBLE APPLICATION

To better understand the role of Jesus as God's agent in creation.

STUDENTS' RESPONSES

Students will discuss ways that Jesus is real in their lives.

LESSON SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:1-14, KJV

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

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

LESSON 2 • MARCH 13, 2022

3 All things were made by 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 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

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

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

BIBLICAL DEFINITIONS

A. Word (John 1:1, 14) *logos* (Gk.)—The Word; denotes the

expression of thought, not the mere name of an object. In John 1:1 and 1:14, Jesus is called “the Word.”

B. Witness (v. 7) *martus or marturia* (Gk.)—Someone who has seen or heard or knows.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

The author of the book of John identifies himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:7, 20, NIV). Most scholars agree that the apostle John is the author of this book. John was well-known in the early church and was intimately familiar with Jewish life. He would have been an eyewitness to many of the events recorded in the Gospel of John.

TEACHING THE BIBLE LESSON

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY’S LESSON

AIM: That your students will trust that our Savior is divine and is God.

INTRODUCTION

Gnosticism

Many of the early Gentile believers had been exposed to varying strains of Gnosticism (an early heresy) and did not believe in the humanity of Jesus. As people from diverse backgrounds became part of the church, it became necessary for the apostles to correct errors in doctrine as well as encourage the existing believers. In the Gospel of John, the writer seems to be addressing a mixed audience of believers, unbelievers, Jews, and Greeks.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: That your students will learn that Jesus is eternal and human.

I. JESUS IS THE WORD (John 1:1–3)

The first 14 verses of the book of John summarize the whole Gospel. In these verses, we are introduced to Jesus who He is, what He does, and the role He plays in the eternal plan of God for the world.

Jesus Is the Word (verses 1-3)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John began his book with the words “In the beginning,” he then introduced Jesus as the Word.” The word used here is *logos*. The Greeks understood *logos* to mean not only the written or spoken word, but also the thought or reasoning in the mind. John’s Greek readers would have understood the nuances of *logos*, realizing that John was presenting Jesus as the power that controlled all things.

The Jewish believers used the word *logos* to refer to God and would have connected this concept to the wisdom personified in the Old Testament (see **Proverbs 8**). In tandem with wisdom was ability; in this case, God’s wisdom was used to create the universe. Jesus is that wisdom personified, all of these concepts are bound up in the word *logos*.

John begins the second verse by reiterating the divine pre-existent nature of the Word. He proceeds to explain the role of the Word in the beginning. The word “made” means “came into being, happened, or became.” John is communicating the idea

that this creative work happened out of nothing, that the Word did not rely on pre-existing material to create the universe (**Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2**).

John also begins to give us a hint as to the name of the Word by referring to the Word as “him.” The Word is more than just an expression of the personality of God; it is the person of Jesus Christ. So John is saying that the Word, which was pre-existent with God, was in complete fellowship with God, possessed all the divine nature and characteristics of deity and created everything.

As believers today, when we read **John 1:1–3**, we may not realize all the nuances that the author intended. But what we must learn from **verse 1** is clear: Jesus was, is, and always will be. He is God, and He is the Creator and the Source of all life. The entirety of our Christian faith rests upon accepting these truths.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

QUESTION 1

In John 1:1, John calls Jesus

“_____.”

the Word

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Jesus Is Everything to Us

Through Jesus, all things were created. The Bible says, “Without him nothing was made that has been made” (**John 1:3, NIV**). To understand the creation, we must know the Creator.

II. JESUS IS THE LIGHT (John 1:4-9)

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

“Life” in Greek is used throughout the Bible to refer to both physical and spiritual life. It is frequently qualified with the word “eternal.” Jesus was the embodiment of the fullness and quality of life that God offers to those who believe (**John 14:6; cp. 10:10**). The life that Jesus was to offer would be the light of all humanity.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John uses the metaphors of “light” and “darkness” to illustrate the differences between a life of grace, mercy, and forgiveness and a life of sin and death. The word “comprehended” has two possible meanings. One meaning is “understood, perceived, or learned” it communicates the fact that those who live in the darkness do not receive the light because of a lack of understanding they don’t get it. Another meaning is the idea “lay hold of or seized” and communicates the fact that the darkness (perhaps Satan or more generally sinful humanity) will never have the ultimate victory over the light of Jesus.

John is saying that some who see the light will be unable to understand and receive it because Satan has blinded them (**II Corinthians 4:4**). However, John says that no matter how dark the darkness of evil seems in the world, no matter how the global circumstances seem to indicate that the darkness of evil is winning, the darkness cannot overcome the light that comes from the life of Christ.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

The apostle John goes on to talk about John the Baptist, the ministry of John the Baptist is prominent in the Gospel of John. Here, the apostle John is affirming the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus echoed this assertion when He said that John the Baptist was the last of the great Old Testament prophets, who came in the spirit of Elijah (**Matthew 11:9–10; Mark 9:13**). John the Baptist had a unique call and ministry to be a witness of Jesus, the Light (**cp. Matthew 4:4; John 1:4**).

In **verse 7**, the word “witness” means to affirm by testimony what one has seen, heard, experienced, or known. Therefore, John the Baptist had the prophetic duty of preparing the way for Jesus by preaching the testimonies of God.

The goal of John the Baptist was the same as the goal of John the apostle, to bring humanity to a place of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The author is careful to specify that John the Baptist was not the genuine light, but that he came to “bear witness,” to testify of, or report of the One to come. John the Baptist testified to the world of the nature and character of Jesus so that “all men through him might believe.”

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

The apostle John makes it clear that John

the Baptist was not the Light, he was only to bear witness of the Light. Like the moon that does not shine its own light but only reflects the light of the sun, so John the Baptist reflects the Light of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus would be the true Light that would light every person. The word “true” refers to that which is sincere or genuine. The apostle John is saying that John the Baptist pointed others to the light to come, and that Jesus Christ was the authentic Light.

QUESTION 2

What role did John the Baptist fulfill before Jesus came?

He was sent to bear witness of the Light. Answers will vary.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Jesus Denied by the World

Although Jesus created the world (**Colossians 1:16**), the world did not recognize Him as Savior (**John 1:10**). Verse 11 says, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” Jesus came to the Jews first but most of them rejected Him as their Messiah.

III. JESUS REVEALS GOD’S CHARACTER (**John 1:10–14**)

Although He had always been omnipresent, Jesus had now come to be one of us. He came to live with us, to feel our pain, to experience our joy, and to know our sorrow. He experienced human life fully. John and the other disciples knew Him intimately as Teacher and Friend. They ate with Him, talked with Him, laughed with Him, and cried with Him.

Rejection and Glory (verses 10-14)
10 He was in the world, and the

world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

His gift of salvation is offered freely to all, but unless one accepts that salvation, the darkness will continue to obscure the light. When we do receive Jesus, God gives us the right to become His children (**verse 12**). What an amazing statement! We have the right to become God’s children. It’s not because of anything we have done to deserve it, but because God’s grace makes it possible for us to choose to believe and receive Jesus. We are not children in the physical sense; we are spiritual children of our Father. When we receive Christ, we are adopted into the family of God (**see I John 3:1**). We are considered heirs of God (**Galatians 3:29**), eligible to receive all of His promised blessings.

We cannot become God’s children by any other means than through salvation in Jesus Christ.

John 1:13 makes it clear that God’s children are not born in the natural way of conception and birth. We are born of God spiritually, and He chose us. God chose to send His Son, Jesus, to the earth to take on the form of human flesh. John first introduced us to Jesus as the eternally

LESSON 2 • MARCH 13, 2022

existing Word of God. Now he reveals another facet of logos Jesus. The One who has always existed, the One who is God, has become a human being (**verse 14**).

Verse 14 says, “The Word dwelt among us.” John’s Jewish readers would have understood the word “dwelling” to be connected to the word for “tabernacle.” In Old Testament times, the tabernacle was where God’s glory dwelled. The disciples watched Him perform miracles, and they knew Him as the Messiah.

QUESTION 3

In John 1:14, John records that Jesus is full of ____ and ____.

grace, truth.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

The Power of Salvation

As modern-day believers, we can’t physically touch Jesus. He is no longer here in the flesh, yet we can see His glory. We can testify to the miracles He has worked in our lives and the lives of others. We can bear witness to the power of salvation, and we can become like Him. In fact, we should strive to become like Him, because we are frail humans. When we receive the logos, we will begin to reflect the likeness of Him who is the Living Word.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: That your students will understand that Jesus came to give a meaningful, real life to all who will receive Him.

Jesus came into this world in the form of human flesh, yet those around Him did not acknowledge Him for who He is. They chose to continue living in darkness rather than receiving the Light. Things

aren’t so different in our world today. In modern society, especially in America and other modern societies, many people have become accustomed to a fast-paced hectic lifestyle. They are easily distracted, often bored, or generally dissatisfied with life.

STUDENTS’ RESPONSES

AIM: That your students will learn that the right theology keeps us in right relationship with God.

For the past 16 years, Greg had been a member of a group that did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God; they did not believe that Jesus was truly God and truly man. Greg tried and tried to be good enough to be in the number that would go to heaven, however he often slipped. It may have been in small ways, but he knew he was slipping and was not good enough to be in that number.

Then Greg began looking into the Bible for himself, because he desperately wanted to have a right relationship with God. He looked at **John 1:1** where he saw that the Word was God and then at **verse 14** where it said that the Word was made flesh. He wondered to himself: Who else could that be but Jesus? Then it hit him that the Bible was saying Jesus is God! This is not what those in the group had told him about Jesus.

The clincher was when he read in verse 12 that all he had to do to have that elusive relationship with God was to believe and receive Jesus! Right then and there, that’s what Greg did.

PRAYER

Lord, keep us in Your care, and remind us of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of

LESSON 2 • MARCH 13, 2022

our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We bless You, and we praise You. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

Heresies regarding the nature of Jesus

Gnosticism (from the Greek *gnosis*, meaning knowledge) reflects the teachings of a diverse group of people who claimed that they had inside knowledge into various truth regarding the nature of Jesus. Specifically, they taught that the material world was evil and that by knowledge, one could ascend to the pure spirituality of the heavenly realm. We see Paul's initial attempts to address this heresy in Colossians.

Docetism reflects the teachings of a subset of Gnosticism. Docetism comes from the Greek word *dokeo*, which means to seem or to appear. Docetists taught that Jesus was not a human being with flesh and blood. Rather he was actually a ghost or an apparition who appeared to be human. John addresses this heresy in his epistles, where he endeavors to reaffirm the full humanity and deity of Jesus. Those who deny this teaching are deemed antichrists.

Finally, Arianism was a heresy that developed in the 4th century. As opposed to Docetism that denied the full humanity of Jesus, Arianism denied the full deity of Jesus. In essence, they taught that Jesus was a demigod, i.e., less than God but more than human. This teaching is memorialized in the words of Arius, speaking of Jesus: "There was a time when he (i.e., Jesus) was not." In other words, Arius taught that Jesus was some kind of created being. This heresy is reflected in the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, who

believe that Jesus was the first of God's created beings.

HOW TO SAY IT

Dualistic.	Du-al-IST-ic.
Emanation.	Em-a-NA-shun.
Preexistence.	Pre-ex-IST-ens.
Incarnation.	In-car-NA-shun.

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

The Beginning of the Year
(Exodus 12:1–8)

TUESDAY

The Beginning of Wisdom
(Psalm 111)

WEDNESDAY

In the Beginning, God
(Genesis 1:1–5)

THURSDAY

From the Foundations of the Earth
(Isaiah 40:21–26)

FRIDAY

The Beginning of the Gospel
(Mark 1:1–8)

SATURDAY

Beginning from Jerusalem
(Luke 24:44–49)

SUNDAY

In the Beginning, the Word
(John 1:1–14)

