

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL · PRINT EDITION

The Word Became Flesh

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 03 · September 27, 2026

JOHN 1:14 (ESV)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

HOW THIS WORKS

- Five days, Monday through Friday — about ten minutes each. Every day has a prayer to open, a short reading, something to think about, one action step, and a prayer to close.
- Keep a pen with it. The lines are part of the devotional — what you write on Monday you will come back to on Friday.
- Prefer your phone? The same devotional is online each week at thesummit.life → The Gospel of John → Reading Plan.

THIS WEEK

Sunday we watched God cross the distance. The Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us, brought grace that never runs out, and showed us exactly what God is like. This week you will take that one day at a time: the God who moved in, what it cost Him to get here, grace that keeps coming, the check engine light, and the face Moses never got to see.

DAY 1 · MONDAY

He Moved InJOHN 1:14 · EXODUS 40:34

Opening prayer*Lord, I have spent a lot of my life thinking of You as far away. This week, show me how close You came. Amen.*

Read John 1:14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word who was with God in the beginning, the one who made everything, became a real human being. Not a costume. Not a vision. Flesh — a body that got hungry and tired and could bleed.

The word dwelt means he pitched his tent. Every Jewish reader would have heard the tabernacle in that. In Exodus 40, the glory of the Lord filled the tent in the middle of Israel's camp, and God lived among His people. John says it happened again, except this time the tent was a person.

God did not shout instructions from a distance. He moved into the neighborhood. Whatever you are carrying this week, you are not carrying it in front of a God who doesn't understand human life. He lived one.

Reflect

Where does God feel far away right now? Write down one part of your life where He seems distant. You will come back to it on Friday.

Today's action step

Every time you sit down to eat today, stop for a few seconds and remember that Jesus did this too. God is not a stranger to your ordinary day.

Closing prayer*Father, You did not stay at a distance. You came all the way to me. Thank You for a God who knows what it is to be human. Amen.*

DAY 2 · TUESDAY

What He Set AsidePHILIPPIANS 2:5–8 · JOHN 1:14

Opening prayer*Lord, I want to see what it cost You to come near. Slow me down today. Amen.*

Read Philippians 2:5–8. Paul says Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant.

He did not stop being God. He could not. But He set aside things He had every right to keep. John MacArthur lists them: the glory of face-to-face fellowship with the Father, His independent authority, the independent use of His divine attributes, the riches of heaven, and on the cross, His favorable relationship with the Father, as He took the wrath our sin deserved.

Read that list again slowly. Every item on it is something Jesus let go of to get close to you. We usually measure love by what someone is willing to give up. By that measure, no one has ever loved you more.

Reflect

What have you been unwilling to give up to get closer to God? Name it honestly.

Today's action step

Paul says, "Have this mind among yourselves." Do one thing today that costs you something so you can be near someone else — a call, a visit, time you would rather keep for yourself.

Closing prayer*Jesus, You let go of heaven's glory to reach me. Help me loosen my grip on whatever I have been holding instead of You. Amen.*

DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY

Grace Upon GraceJOHN 1:16

Opening prayer*Lord, I have treated Your grace like it has a limit. Show me how wrong I have been. Amen.*

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Grace is a gift from God that we don't deserve and can't earn. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we don't.

Picture standing at the edge of the ocean. One wave rolls in and pulls back, and before it is gone another is already on its way. You never reach the last wave. One commentator put it simply: when one supply of grace is exhausted, another is available.

Most of us believe in grace until we sin again. Then we act like we have used up our allowance. We hide, we stay away, we promise to do better before we come back. But grace does not come from our supply. It comes from His fullness, and His fullness never runs low.

Reflect

What sin or failure makes you feel like you have run out of grace? Write it down. Then write “grace upon grace” next to it.

Today's action step

The next time you blow it this week, don't hide and don't try to make up for it first. Go straight to God, tell Him, and thank Him that His grace has not run out.

Closing prayer*Father, I keep acting like Your grace depends on me. It doesn't. It comes from Your fullness. Thank You for grace upon grace. Amen.*

DAY 4 · THURSDAY

The Check Engine LightJOHN 1:17 · ROMANS 7:12

Opening prayer*Lord, show me where I have been trying to fix myself. Amen.*

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The law was not bad. Paul calls it holy and righteous and good. It was a gift from God that showed people what He expects and where they fall short.

But the law is like a check engine light. It tells you something is wrong. It can't fix it. You can stare at the dashboard all day and the engine will still be broken.

Notice the two verbs. The law was given through Moses. He delivered it, like a messenger carrying a letter. Grace and truth came through Jesus. He is the source. Moses delivered God's gift. Jesus is God's gift.

Plenty of Christians live staring at the light: feeling guilty, trying harder, making promises, and never actually bringing the problem to the only one who can fix it.

Reflect

What have you been trying to fix on your own? Be specific. Write it down.

Today's action step

Take what you just wrote and bring it to Jesus out loud today. Then tell one person you trust what you are bringing to Him, so you are not carrying it alone.

Closing prayer*Jesus, I am done staring at the light. Only You can fix what sin has broken. I am bringing this to You. Amen.*

DAY 5 · FRIDAY

God's FaceJOHN 1:18 · EXODUS 33:18–23

Opening prayer*Lord, I want to know what You are really like, not what I have assumed. Show me Jesus. Amen.*

Read Exodus 33:18–23. Moses asked God for the one thing he wanted most: “Please show me your glory.” God said no one can see His face and live. So He hid Moses in a cleft of the rock, covered him with His hand, and let him see only His back.

Now read John 1:18. No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. “Made him known” is where we get the word exegesis. Jesus is God’s explanation. Moses saw God’s back. In Jesus, we see His face.

So if your picture of God is harsher or more distant than Jesus, your picture is wrong. You don’t have to run to God. In Jesus, God ran to you.

Reflect

Go back to what you wrote on Monday and Thursday. What would it look like to bring those things to the God who came near?

Today's action step

Read John 1:14–18 straight through one more time. Then tell God, in your own words, one thing you now know about Him because of Jesus.

Closing prayer*Father, thank You for not hiding Your face. Thank You for Jesus, who shows me exactly what You are like. I am coming near. Amen.***LOOKING AHEAD**

Next Sunday: Week 4 · A Voice in the Wilderness · John 1:19–28 · October 4, 2026. Memory verse this week: John 1:14.