

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

CHRISTMAS WEEK 2

The incarnation of the Son of God

John 1:6–18



DAY 1

He came to give light • John 1:6–9

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:6–9

At Christmas we can enjoy the greatest relationship of all because the greatest person of all came to us. We can know God personally as our own Father because God Himself broke into our world to make Himself known. This was so special that God wanted to make sure people knew it was true. He wanted them to believe in the One who was coming, so He sent a **witness**, someone to tell the truth and report the facts. John the Baptist came with God's authority to **testify**, to solemnly speak the truth about the light. The light is the Word, the eternal God and the always-living companion of God who created all things (John 1:1–4). He is the light because He shines with God's glory so that people can see and know God (Ps 27:1; Ezek 1:26–28). He is the **"true light"** because He is the greatest and ultimate of all lights. Only the true light perfectly and fully displays God's goodness, and every display of God's glory throughout all history comes from Him—and now He was about to personally come into the world!

ASK

- Who said Jesus was coming into the world?
John the Baptist.
- What was John the Baptist a witness about?
The Light—the eternal Light who shows us the Father and gives life.
- What was John saying about the light?
Even though the Light was always living and shining, He was now about to come into the world in a special way.

DISCUSS

- What are some other lights that show a little of God's goodness (Gen 1:16; Exod 35:14; Prov 15:30; 16:15)? How is Jesus much greater than all of these?
- What are some ways you can "testify" about the light this Christmas season?

DAY 2

He was in the world, but the world did not know Him • John 1:10–11

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:10–11

The world should have been thrilled to receive Jesus! Not only was He their true light, but He was also their maker. He had personally created the universe and all the people in it, and He was the One breathing life into all creation (John 1:3–4). The world owed its life to Him, but the world didn't even recognize Him. Something is wrong with the world! At first, the world was perfect (Gen 1:31). But ever since Adam and Eve chose to worship themselves instead of God (3:1–6), the world has become rebellious, ignorant, dark, and blind to the light of God (Rom 1:21). So the world didn't even recognize its Owner. The world was dark, but surely Israel would receive Him! Hadn't God chosen Israel as His special people? Hadn't He given them the light of His word (Rom 3:2; 9:4; Ps 119:105)? Although Israel enjoyed a special relationship with God (Exod 19:4–6), they violated the covenant and rejected their God (Isa 65:2–5). So it is not surprising that they also refused to receive their Light, their Creator, and their Owner.

ASK

1. Why is it so strange that the world did not recognize Him?
Because He was the One who created the world.
2. Did His own people receive Him?
No, they did not.
3. Why is this surprising?
God had given Israel the light of His word, and Israel enjoyed a special relationship with God.

DISCUSS

1. How would you feel if your family or close friends did not recognize you? How much worse when the world failed to recognize Jesus?
2. Is there anything in your life that is preventing you from seeing Jesus for all that He is?

DAY 3

He came to create life • John 1:12–13

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:12–13

Some people do believe in Jesus. They believe in His **name**, accepting and trusting Him for *all that He has revealed Himself to be*. That is a good choice, because the One who has authority over all the world also has authority to give them the greatest gift. He gives them the **right** and **privilege** to enter into God's own family and to enjoy the closest possible relationship with Him. But how can people, who are so sinful,

become children of God, who is so Holy? Only by being completely changed from the inside out, by being "born again" (John 3:3). Physical birth is not enough. The Jews thought they were already children of God because they were descendants of Abraham (8:33; Gen 12:3). But no one can be saved just by being part of a certain family or community (John 8:41–47), for salvation is not something humans make happen by their own ability or desire. Fortunately, the One who created all life in the beginning is able to create new, spiritual, eternal life. After all, He is life in Himself (1:4a). To receive Him is to receive never-ending life.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What is another word for believing in Jesus?
Receiving Jesus. Wanting Him to come and be the boss of your life.
2. What does it mean to believe in Jesus' "name"?
To accept and trust Him for all that He has revealed Himself to be.
3. If your parents are Christians, does that automatically make you a child of God?
No. Children of God are not born by human desire or ability, but are born of God.
4. What does being "born again" mean?
To be completely changed from the inside out.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you believe in Jesus? Consider if you have done the following: humbly received Him, wanted Him, yielded to Him, given allegiance to Him, relied upon Him, let Him come in, and let Him have His way with your life?
2. Why is there really no such thing as a "second generation Christian"?

DAY 4*He became a human to show humans God's glory • John 1:14***READ** 

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 1:14**

The **Word**, the One who is eternal, always alive, always with God, is God, created the world, has life in Himself, and shines with unstoppable light, became **flesh**. He became actually and fully human. But why? Because He is the Word, and words communicate. That's why the true Word became a human: to let humans see and know God personally (Heb 1:1–2). Long ago, God lived with Israel in the tabernacle, and Israel saw the shining cloud of His glory (Exod 25:8; 40:34). But back then, God only spoke directly to Moses, and He wrote His word on stone (Exod 33:11; 34:28). It was amazing, but it was small compared to the Word becoming human. Never before had God lived with mankind in such a close and personal way. Never before had He made His glory so visible. The Word's glory was the glory of the "only Son," the one-of-a-kind person who is exactly like the Father. So His glory is the same **glory** that God showed Moses, His goodness that abounds in "steadfast love and faithfulness" (Exod 33:18–19; 34:6). This is exactly the same as the Son's glory full of "grace and truth."

ASK 

1. Did Jesus become a human?
Yes
2. Why did Jesus become a human?
He became a human so that God could be with humans and humans could be with God.
3. How did God dwell with Israel in the past?
In the tabernacle.
4. How is Jesus' glory just like the Father's glory?
Their glory is full of grace (steadfast love) and truth (faithfulness).

DISCUSS 

1. Did Jesus become less than God when He became a human (John 10:30–33)?
2. Do you pursue a personal relationship with Jesus, or do you only know facts about Him?

DAY 5

His glory is exactly the same as God's glory • John 1:15–18

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:15–18

The Son is more glorious than anyone else. He is greater than John the Baptist. Even though John was older and began his ministry first, the Son was actually first, both in time and in rank. The Son is also greater than Moses. From the Son comes “grace upon grace,” or more literally, one grace “in the place of” another grace. Long ago God gave the grace of the law through Moses (1:17a). But Jesus brings greater grace (Eph 1:5–8; 2:7), since He alone lets us know God’s full glory. So we end where this gospel began (John 1:1, 18). First, the Word who communicates God to the world is the Son who shows us exactly what the Father is like. Second, the Word who was with God and was God is the Son who is God and is with God. The Son is close to the Father, loves the Father, does the Father’s work, and lives for the Father’s glory. Yet at the same time, the Son Himself is God in His *nature*, at the core of who He is. This precious Son is the true gift of Christmas.

ASK

1. How is Jesus greater than John the Baptist?
Even though John was older and began his ministry first, the Son was actually first, both in time and in rank.
2. How is Jesus greater than Moses?
Jesus brings greater grace. He alone lets us know God’s full glory.
3. Why do we need the Son to show us the Father?
Because no one can see the Father for all of who He is.
4. What is the true gift of Christmas?
God’s precious Son, Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. How could Jesus be born after John but still be before him? How was John the Baptist a humble witness?
2. How can you follow Jesus’ example in your relationship with your father?