

John 1:1-14

Jesus: The Godman

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Memory Verse: John 1:14a *"And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us."*

Lesson Focus: We will introduce the gospel of John and emphasize the identity of Jesus revealed in these verses. Nowhere in Scripture is Jesus more clearly characterized as both God and man than in these verses. Our aim in this lesson will be to open the eyes of the kids in wonder and in faith to who Jesus Christ actually is.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Hom Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Superhero Mask

Starter Activity: 20 Questions Game. Most of the kids should be familiar with this game. You pick an object and the kids will try and discover that object by asking clever yes/no questions to eliminate certain things. Your object will be the "book" of the gospel according to John. Require the kids to raise their hands and ask questions like "is it a place?" or "is it a person?". Be sure to ignore the kids who blurt out answers and only respond to those who raise their hands. * Teachers: Consider just making Jesus your object for an easier game.

Afterwards transition into the study. Explain the reason we played this game is that this is the book of the Bible we will be studying for the next several months. It tells us more about Jesus Christ -- who He is, why He came, what He wants - than any other book of the Bible!

Background:

Important questions to establish context and background of any book of the Bible.

- 1) **What?:** The fourth and final gospel. Gospel means "good news" and in this book, the "good news" is that Jesus Christ came so that people can trust in Him and be forgiven and rescued from the bad news they deserve. *
- 2) **Who?:** The author of this book is John the apostle, who was one of the original twelve apostles. He is the same John who penned 1, 2, and 3 John that we studied earlier in the year.
- 3) **When?:** Most experts believe it was written around 90 AD, 60 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- 4) **Why?:** John actually tells us why he wrote this in **John 20:31**. Jesus walks off the pages of John's gospel and into our world in such a real and intimate way so that people would see Him, believe in Him as the Godman, and have eternal life.

Bible Study:

John 1:1-2: Whoa! This gospel starts out with some BIG ideas! There are four things that John tells us about this mysterious "Word" in these two verses.

1) The Word was "*in the beginning*".

Q: Who knows what the very first words of the Bible are (**Genesis 1:1**)?

A: "*In the beginning God...*" John 1:1 says "*In the beginning the Word...*" John is purposefully referencing *Genesis* to show the divine nature of the Word.

2) The Word was "with God". This shows that there is some distinction within God.

Q: If I said to you, "Doug is with Beth", how many persons would there be? Two!

3) The Word "was God". Not only was the Word with God, but the Word was and is God. John does not say that there are two Gods, but one God just like the rest of the Bible teaches.

4) The Word is a "He". This means that this Word is a person or a "Who".

Q: "Who" do you think John is referring as "the Word"? Jesus!

John 1:3: Here we learn something else amazing about Jesus, the Word. He is the Creator! He made you and He made me. Later in this book we will see the Holy Spirit also described as God, but as a third and separate Person from God the Father and God the Son.

These first three verses of John's gospel help us understand the Trinity: That God is one God in three distinct Persons. Not three Gods, but one. Not all the same Person, but three.

Q: Have you ever asked the question or wondered "who created God"?

A: These verses help us answer that question too. God, by definition, is uncreated! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have ALWAYS EXISTED! No matter how far back in time you think, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were always there as God! Read **Psalm 90:2**. From "everlasting to everlasting" God was there!

John 1:4-5: Jesus, as God, is the source of all life. This not only is talking about Him as the Creator of all living things, but He is also the One to whom we go to if we want to experience life both now and forever. *

These verses also talk about light and darkness, or good and bad.

Q: Where does goodness come from? How do we know what is good and what is bad?

A: These verses teach that light/goodness comes from God. For He is perfectly good, all-good, and there is no evil in Him. Read **Psalm 5:4** or **1 John 1:5**. Therefore, we know what is good and evil by looking to Him and what He has said in the Scriptures.

Read **Genesis 1:31**. We see that God created everything originally good.

Q: But what happened? Adam and Eve sinned, they chose darkness, and evil entered the world. And if we are honest, we know that we are sinners too, often choosing darkness.

Q: So, if God is all-good where nothing evil can dwell with Him, and if we have done evil things, do we have a problem?

A: Yes! Our sin SEPARATES us from God. There is a huge chasm between us and God, because of our sin! Praise God the story doesn't end here!

John 1:6-9: These verses are talking about a certain person who was, in a sense, the very first missionary to point people to Jesus: John the Baptist (not John the author).

Q: Who knows what a pep rally is? It's a gathering before a big event designed to garner enthusiasm/excitement. Think of John the Baptist as the leader of a pep rally to get all of God's people, Israel, excited about the coming of their promised Rescuer.

(**Teachers:** We will leave a beard and a whistle in class. Consider inviting a volunteer up to pretend to be John the Baptist and with your help lead the class in a rally. "Give me a J! Give me an E! Give me an S!" etc.) *

In v. 6 it says that he was sent from God. John the Baptist coming as the "pep rally leader" was prophesied hundreds of years before in the OT (see **Isaiah 40:3**)! *

John 1:10-11: Imagine going to a pep rally for a big event but being let down when the big event actually happens. You might think, "This is all it is?" *

That is very similar to what happened when Jesus came. Notice in v. 11 it says that Jesus, the promised Rescuer, came even to His own, but they did not receive Him! God's people rejected their own promised Rescuer! They knew God had promised a Rescuer, but they were looking for someone to rescue them from Rome and restore Israel to its former glory. They weren't looking for a Rescuer that would rescue them from their sins and restore them to God.

John 1:12-13: But not everybody rejected Him. Remember at the beginning we said why this book was written....so that people may believe in Jesus Christ and have life in His name. (**John 20:31**) In v. 12 it says those who receive Him and believe in His name become children of God.

Remember before we talked about God being perfectly good and we cannot be with Him because of our sin? Here we begin to see how Jesus solves that problem for us. If we **believe** in Him and **receive** Him, God adopts us as one of His children. *

Q: What does it mean to **receive** something? It means we are given something and we accept it, take it, and make it our own. Jesus offers us the way to be restored to God forever, but we have to **receive** His offer and make it our own by faith.

John 1:14: This is perhaps the most amazing verse in all of the Bible and brings us back to where we started our study. We learned in v. 1-3 that the Word, Jesus, is God, the Creator of all things. But here we learn that the Word became like us, a man!

Q: What holiday celebrates this amazing truth? Christmas! At Christmas we marvel at the fact that the baby in the manger is both God and man: The Godman. *

Key Point: Is this the Jesus you have put your trust in?

The same God who created the universe, entered His creation as a man.

The same God who brought the global flood upon the earth became man.

The same God who parted the Red Sea became man.

The same God who brought down the walls of Jericho became man.

The same God who is all-good, perfect, and holy entered this broken sinful world as man, and suffered among us, even dying on the cross.

The last point above is the most amazing.

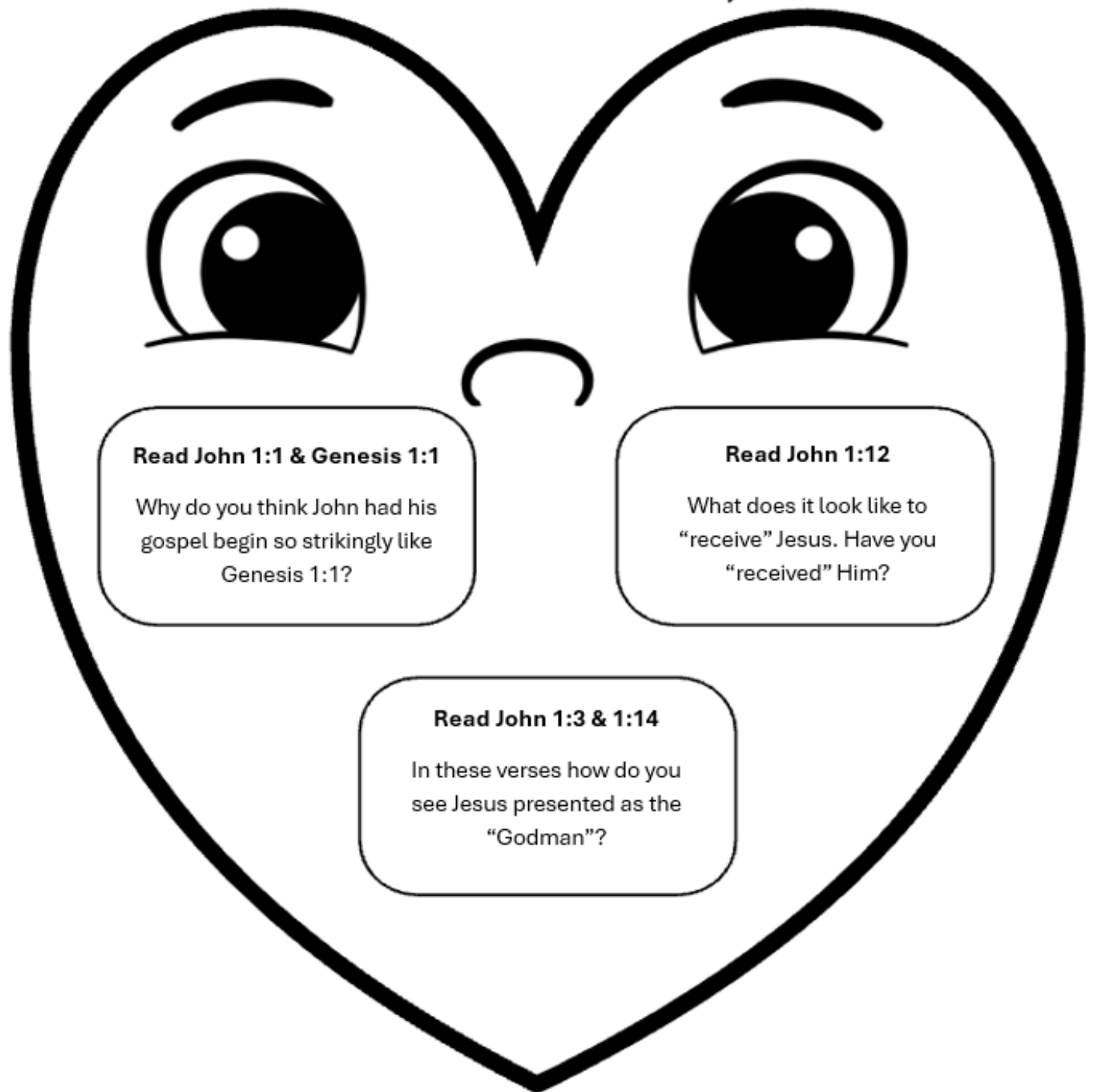
Q: Why would God lower Himself, humble Himself, and enter our world, even suffer, as one of us?

A: To rescue us! To save us! Jesus took our punishment on Himself so that whoever believes and trusts in Him could be with Him in glory where He is.

Think of the "Godman", Jesus, as the superhero of superheroes. Better than Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Aquaman, and Ironman. Believe in Him, receive Him, worship Him!

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has
bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!