

## The Reason for It All

General Topic: The Agent of Creation

Sunday, July 3, 2022

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### Lesson Text: John 1:1-14

Background Scripture: John 1:1-14

*John 1:1 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 anything 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.*

### Lesson Objective(s):

Consumers of this lesson will come to understand the purpose of the living Word of God.

### Teaching Tools

Word puzzles may be developed from the following site: [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com). Also, [www.dtlk.com](http://www.dtlk.com) has several visual aids that may be beneficial, as well as [www.kidsundayschool.com](http://www.kidsundayschool.com) which provide other helps for teaching.

Bible Journaling may be an interesting way to involve older teens in self-expression of the lessons they are taught. Visit [www.lifeway.com/Articles/how-to-start-](http://www.lifeway.com/Articles/how-to-start-)

[bible-journaling-in-six-easy-steps](#) to find ways to use this valuable tool to learn and reinforce Scripture.

### **The Lesson:**

The Apostle John wrote his gospel with one major purpose in mind. He selectively chose words and actions of Jesus that would inform and enlighten his readers concerning the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31). In this week's lesson, John first focused on eternity past. He also related that Christ, who is God (John 1:1), became a man in order to redeem sinners.

### **Background**

The author of the book of John identifies himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:7, 20). Most scholars agree that the apostle John is the author of this book. John was wellknown 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. Dating of the Gospel of John is a matter of debate, with dates ranging from AD 50 to 95 or later. However, most scholars accept the later date of AD 95.

Although we may not know the exact date of the writing, we do know that the first-century church was thriving. Even amid the threats of persecution and heresy, the church continued to grow. John wrote to encourage the believers, most of whom were Jewish. He affirms their Jewishness as well as their faith in Jesus Christ, contrasting them with the Pharisees, who claimed to be the true or real Jews. 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.

John begins his Gospel with a clear reference to Genesis 1:1. The book of Genesis opens with an affirmation of the nature and character of God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The purpose of the statement in Genesis is threefold: (1) to identify the Creator, (2) to explain the origin of the world, and (3) to tie the work of God in the past to the work of God in the future. Likewise, John is clearly identifying Jesus, the Living Word made flesh, as God the Creator (John 1:3) and affirming Him as the only source of life and redemption.

### **Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-3)**

This Gospel from its very start is heralding the deity of Jesus Christ. John is not referring here to a particular time in the past; rather, he is affirming the preexistence of Jesus. John is clearly asserting that the divine Word is the source of creation and of all that is visible and invisible in the world. John leaves no question as to the nature, character, and glory of the Word—the “Word was God”. John is saying that the Word is deity, one with God in nature, character, and glory.

These words were encouraging for those who struggled with wondering not if God was willing to deliver them but if the Lord was capable of doing it. These people had experienced military defeat at the hands of countless enemies. They knew in their heart of hearts that they were guilty of not keeping the covenant. They remembered the times that they worshiped other gods and didn't care for the God who freed them from Egypt and protected their ancestors. Some even scoffed at their tradition. Some ignored their heritage. So, they thought, why would God save us? Why would God return to us? Why would God rescue us in light of everything we have done against Him? It is a wonderful blessing to know that God is a forgiving God. And not only is He forgiving, but He is also able to forgive and restore when He pleases.

### **Jesus is the Light (John 1:4-6)**

John speaks of Jesus as the light. Jesus is Life itself, and that Life is our Light. When we receive this life Jesus offers, His light replaces our spiritual darkness, and we become more like our Creator. However, many people live in deep darkness, which often connotes sin in the Bible. Even though Jesus is the light to dispel darkness, many people refuse to accept the light of salvation. It's the same today.

People are so thoroughly entrenched in their sin and ignorance that they are blind to the light. God can use anyone to pierce through the darkness. In Jesus' time, God sent John the Baptist to bear witness to Jesus. John the Baptist did not want people to believe in him; he pointed the way to Jesus. Today, God uses His written Word and the power of the Holy Spirit to testify to the Light. He also uses believers. Every believer should view himself or herself as a testimony to the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ.

### **Jesus is the Messiah (Isaiah 50:7-8)**

Although Jesus created the world, the world did not recognize Him as Savior. Jesus came to the Jews first, but most of them rejected Him as their Messiah. His gift of salvation is offered freely to all. When we do receive Jesus, God gives us the right to become His children, not physically, but spiritually. We are considered His heirs, eligible to receive all of His promised blessings. We cannot become God's children by any means other than through salvation in Jesus Christ whom God sent to the earth to take on human flesh. He came to live with us, to feel our pain, to experience our joy, and to know our sorrow.

### **Final Thoughts**

In this week's lesson, the Apostle John gave us a highly developed introduction to the Word, Jesus Christ. The Son became flesh so that He could bring us the gift of eternal life. God wants us to leave all the whys, the when and the where up to Him. He wants us to depend

on Him and obey Him. A good rule for going through life is to remain emotionally sensitive to God. Let's remember that He has revealed Himself to us through the Word, Jesus Christ.

***Be Salt! Be Light! Be Blessed!***