

## The Word Became Flesh

Over the past week, so much around us has changed. Our routines of school, sports, youth group, activities, etc. have all been cancelled, and that is just the beginning. But in this world that is flipped on its head, we want to take some time to focus on one thing that has never and will never change, Jesus Christ. As Hebrews 13:8 says, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*

With some of your extra free time, we want to help you walk through the Gospel of John. John is a little different than the other three Gospel accounts. While the other three tell more of a chronological story of Jesus’ life, John has a clear message he is trying to get across. Each story in John was specifically chosen to help you better know who Christ is, and believe in Him.

John is really clear about his purpose in writing the book. *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**”* (John 20:30-31) There were more stories John could have written down, but these were written so that we would believe and have eternal life. For more of an introduction to the Gospel of John, check out <https://bibleproject.com/explore/john/>.

In an uncertain time, it is our prayer that these devotionals help you know deeper the One who never changes and who will never let you down.

As we kick off today, take a minute take to reflect on where you are at right now:

- 1) In general, how do you feel about all that is going on in your world right now? Scared? Annoyed? Bored? Anxious? Confused?
  
- 2) Do you see Jesus impacting your world around you? If so, how and where? If not, do you think Jesus cares? Why or why not?

Before we look at God’s Word, **pray** and ask Him to reveal His truth to you today, that you would know Christ in a fresh and deeper way. Note that as you read, “the Word” is another name for Jesus, and the “John” referred to in this passage is John the Baptist, not John the disciple, the author of this Gospel account.

**John 1:1-13** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- 3) Make a list of at least 5 things you learn about Jesus in these verses:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Stop and think about that list for a minute. Which of those surprise you? Challenge you? Confuse you? Encourage you? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What does verse 5 say is true about darkness? Where does verse 9 say Jesus' light is shining? How might that give us hope today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Where are you tempted to think that "the darkness" is winning? What do you think Jesus would want you to know in that situation?

- 7) From verse 12. What do you think it practically means to be a “child of God”? How do you become one? What are the costs? What are the benefits?
- 8) Think about your own parents. How are they helping you today? How might God want to help you today?

**John 1:14-18** <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

- 9) In verses 14 & 17, it says Jesus was full of grace and truth. Describe someone you think is full of grace? Describe someone you think is full of truth?
- 10) Why might it be hard for us to be full of both? What do you think it looked like that Jesus was full of both Grace and Truth?
- 11) According to these verse 18, who has Jesus revealed to us? How do you view God looking down on you right now? Do you think it is consistent with the nature of God Jesus is revealing?

**John 1:19-34** <sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

12) What is John the Baptist doing in this passage?

13) Why would John the Baptist call Jesus a "Lamb" in verse 29? What would a lamb be used for in their world? How did Jesus do the same thing for us?

14) Go back to your answer to Question #2. From all you have read today, how has your perspective on Jesus changed? Where do you think He might be more at work than you realized?