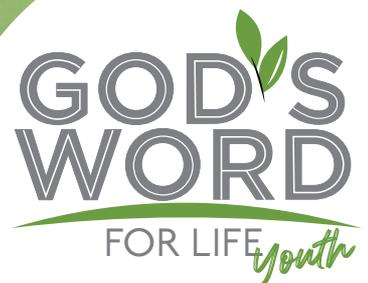


YOUTH

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

JR. HIGH/SR. HIGH
SPRING 2024



GOD'S
WORD
FOR LIFE *youth*

GOD'S WORD



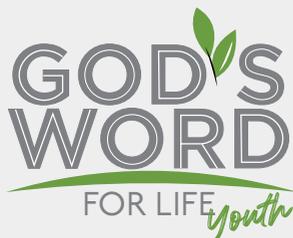
FOR LIFE

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief: Robin Johnston

Associate Editor in Chief:

Lee Ann Alexander

Curriculum Director: LJ Harry

Youth Editor: Evan Zenobia

DESIGN

Tim Cummings, Dennis Fiorini,

Savannah Sullivan

ARTIST

MANDY DEHART

LESSON WRITERS

Reagan Coltharp, Ann Frake, Michael Guerra

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36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE SPRING 2024

Table of Contents

Series 1: John — God with Us

Week of

03.03.2024	1.1	The Word Made Flesh	2
03.10.2024	1.2	The Unseen Harvest.....	8
03.17.2024	1.3	When the Light Shines.....	14
03.24.2024	1.4	The Good Shepherd.....	20

Series 2: Worshiping Our Sovereign God

Week of

03.31.2024	ES*	This Glorious Gospel.....	26
04.07.2024	2.1	The Transfiguration of Jesus	32
04.14.2024	2.2	Jesus Calms the Storm	38
04.21.2024	2.3	The Triumphal Entry	44
04.28.2024	2.4	The One Who Sits on the Throne.....	50

Series 3: Elijah and Elisha

Week of

05.05.2024	3.1	The First Last Meal	56
05.12.2024	3.2	Fire from Heaven	62
05.19.2024	3.3	Success in Succession	68
05.26.2024	3.4	Healing for the Outsider.....	74

*ES indicates Easter Sunday.

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1.1

SERIES 1: JOHN — GOD WITH US

THE WORD MADE FLESH

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///

God became human to save us.

SERIES BIG IDEA

Focusing on key passages in the Gospel of John, we will see the Word made flesh, fields ripe for harvest, a man who was blind receive his sight, Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and the selfless love of our God for the whole world.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

John 1:1-14

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will know Jesus—
God manifested in the
flesh.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? ///

For hundreds of years, the Jewish nation awaited their Messiah, but when He came, they rejected Him. Those who were made in His image did not recognize Him. He offered Himself as a gift to all, but many rejected that gift.

At times we will share the gospel with people, but they will not be willing to receive it. We may feel discouraged because we want to see our family and friends saved, but they may not listen to what we have to say. Remember, they are not rejecting us; they are rejecting Jesus. If we stay faithful to what we believe, Jesus can continue to work on their hearts.

Not everyone rejected Jesus, though. Jesus offered those who believed in Him far more than freedom from an oppressive government; He offered them power. As beings created in the image of God, we have the opportunity to be born again and receive God's power. In John 3, we can read exactly what being born again means.

Just as Jesus' grace and truth were available to everyone He met, we must share His grace and truth with everyone we meet. A person's beliefs, skin color, or social status does not matter. We must love like Jesus loves so the redemptive plan of God can be at work in others' lives just as His plan is at work in our lives.



THE WORD MADE FLESH

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used in any way you feel comfortable. Use a journal, the notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to help you interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// What words or phrases do you think of when you realize Almighty God came as a baby?

/// Why is our language important when we consider the Incarnation?

/// Is the Incarnation general (for all), personal (for you), or both?

/// Why is John 1 so important? What does it teach us?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

THE WORD MADE FLESH

MONDAY

Read John 1:1-3.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning was the Word, and as we know Him, the Word was God. God was in the beginning. We as humans speak words, and we can back up those words with actions. God speaking is an action by itself. The next point John was making is God created *everything*. From the hair on your head to the blades of grass on the earth, God made it all. As Creator, God's authority to create existed before anything else existed. His identity as Creator is tied into His power as Creator. Because He has power and authority, He can create anything, and He chose to create us. God was the Creator before time began. We don't have to worry about what He can and cannot do or if He is there. He always has been and always will be.

Jr. High /// Have you ever felt like your problems might be too small or trivial for God? When God created everything, He had you in mind.

Sr. High /// As Creator, God knows everything. He knows every thought you have in your mind and every trouble weighing you down (even your final exams). Pray and intentionally take your problems to Him. Then listen for His voice.

TUESDAY

Read John 1:4-5.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

From the start of Creation, the first thing God said was, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). His second act was to separate the light from the darkness. In John 1:4, John defined light as the life Jesus came to bring us. If life is light and the opposite of light is darkness, then darkness represents spiritual death and condemns us to spiritual death. John said the darkness could not comprehend (overcome) the light. Test that out today. Walk into the biggest room you can find and turn off the lights. Then turn on only your phone flashlight. When we are brought into life—into light—we start to understand more. For the light to overcome our darkness, we must let the light into our hearts through repentance. When we let in the light, God can shed light on the things in our lives we need to change.

Jr. High /// Repentance is not something we just do once and it lasts forever. How can you give more of your heart to God today?

Sr. High /// When we live as Christians in the world, we shine light into the darkness. How can you shine the light of God into the lives of those around you?

THE WORD MADE FLESH

WEDNESDAY

Read John 1:10-11.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John has already established that God was in the beginning, He created everything, and in Him was life that the darkness of this world cannot comprehend. Then we see the world's response to God's light—rejection. The darkness isn't just confused by the light; the darkness *hates* the light. Darkness and light are like oil and water. They can't even play in the same sandbox. We cannot choose light and darkness; we must choose one. If we are not willing to give up things that do not please God, He cannot shine His light in us. We must make the daily decision to live in the light rather than in darkness. We can continue to live in darkness if we choose not to change our habits and repent of our sins, but why would we when we have the opportunity to embrace the light and leave the darkness?

Jr. High /// *When you think of your life, is there anything that might be displeasing to God?*

Sr. High /// *Sin can look fun, and living like Christ can look difficult. What are some ways you can choose life in the light today?*

THURSDAY

Read John 1:12-13.

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: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Though many rejected God's light, we see in these verses that many also accepted it. When they accepted the light, God empowered them to shine into the darkness. He gave them the power to live a victorious life by believing on His name. Names carry power. When someone says the president gave orders, we have to obey. Invoking the name of the president carries the authority of the government. John already established God as Creator, which means God has all authority over His creation. God offers the power for us to be reborn spiritually after we die out to sin. All we need to do is believe on His name and obey His Word, and we are made new.

Jr. High /// *Is there a problem in your life right now? Call the name of Jesus over that situation in prayer. He has all power.*

Sr. High /// *In your journal, write down anything that worries you. Then go through the list and call the name of Jesus over each concern. Keep that list and pray over it daily using the name of Jesus.*

THE WORD MADE FLESH

FRIDAY

Read John 1:14.

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.

Jesus is the only one who has all glory and power, and He had it before time began. He came as a baby, as one of us, to save us from the darkness in this world. John 1:4-5 tells us that light and darkness are in this world, and darkness cannot overcome light and life. Jesus came to give us power (John 1:12-13) to overcome darkness and live a victorious life through His truth. We must first know who Jesus is and what His mission was before we can understand *why* He did what He did. Jesus performed miracles, taught anyone who would listen, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the grave under His own power. That is why He was made flesh and dwelt among us—to save everyone—to save you.

Jr. High /// Think of five things you can thank God for and write them in your journal.

Sr. High /// Read the entire first chapter of John. Then write down, in your own words, what happened in the chapter.

SATURDAY

Read John 20:31.

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John wrote his Gospel so *you* might believe Jesus is God and have life through His name. You—not someone else, not just everyone in the world—but *you* can have life through Jesus' name. God—the all-powerful God from before time began—came, died, and had John write this book so you can have life. God has given you the opportunity to live in the light, outside the darkness and death sin brings. All you have to do is believe on His name and obey His gospel. He came to give you life if you will rightly respond to Him. This isn't just a one-time offer. If you mess up, you don't disqualify yourself from a relationship with this God who loves you. God is forgiving. He wants you to choose to live in the light with Him.

Jr. High /// In your journal, write a prayer to God thanking Him for His love and mercy. Use Psalm 136 as a guide.

Sr. High /// Think of three people you can tell about God's love today. Send a text, call them, or tell them in person that God loves them and has a plan for their life. Because you walk in the light, you can shine light into other people's lives.

