

YOUTH

LEADER GUIDE

JOHN — GOD WITH US

PORTRAITS OF JESUS'
LOVE AND DEITY

WORSHIPING OUR SOVEREIGN GOD

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS FOR
THE ONE WORTHY OF OUR
WORSHIP

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

ANSWERING THE CALL WITH
FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

GOD'S WORD



FOR LIFE

LEGAL NOTICE

Thank you for ordering this digital license of God's Word for Life. This license authorizes you to use the material in your local church. One license should be purchased for each person who will be using this file. For classes that have rotating teachers, one license should be purchased for the total number of teachers in a given week. You may purchase additional licenses at pentecostalpublishing.com. In accordance with U. S. and international copyright law, this material may not be shared beyond the local assembly without written permission from Pentecostal Publishing House.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

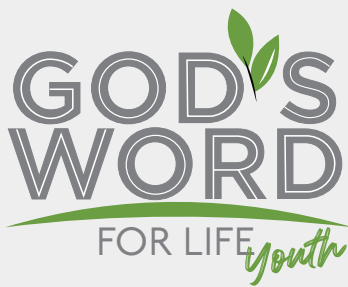


God's Word for Life



GWFLIFE





Youth Leader Guide
Spring 2024

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, Michael Guerra, Ann Frake

Youth Leader Guide

Manufactured in USA, March 2024, 6632411
www.pentecostalpublishing.com • All rights reserved. • ©2024 Pentecostal Publishing House
36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304

Materials in this curriculum may only be copied for use in the local classroom. Do not reproduce, distribute, or transmit any other part of the God's Word for Life curriculum in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without possessing prior documented approval from Pentecostal Publishing House, a department of the United Pentecostal Church International. To request permission, contact customerservice@pentecostalpublishing.com.

Websites referenced in source citations are not intended to imply an endorsement by Pentecostal Publishing House (PPH), nor does PPH vouch for the content of these sites.

Teachers and leaders should review the terms of service of any website before using it in the class or other setting. Given the transient nature of online publications, it is possible a web address may no longer be active or may have been altered since the print date of this publication.

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

YOUTH LEADER GUIDE SPRING 2024

Table of Contents

Using This Guide..... 2
Daily Devotional Guide..... 5
Resource Kit 6

Series 1: John — God with Us

03.03.2024 1.1 The Word Made Flesh 9
03.10.2024 1.2 The Unseen Harvest..... 17
03.17.2024 1.3 When the Light Shines..... 25
03.24.2024 1.4 The Good Shepherd..... 33

Series 2: Worshiping Our Sovereign God

03.31.2024 ES* This Glorious Gospel..... 41
04.07.2024 2.1 The Transfiguration of Jesus 49
04.14.2024 2.2 Jesus Calms the Storm 57
04.21.2024 2.3 The Triumphal Entry 65
04.28.2024 2.4 The One Who Sits on the Throne..... 73

Series 3: Elijah and Elisha

05.05.2024 3.1 The First Last Meal 81
05.12.2024 3.2 Fire from Heaven 89
05.19.2024 3.3 Success in Succession 97
05.26.2024 3.4 Healing for the Outsider 105

*ES indicates Easter Sunday.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 God's Word for Life

 @GodsWordForLife

 @godswordforyouth

To share your own video devotional, use
#GodsWord4Youth and **#MyDailyDevotional**



HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

God's Word for Life marks a new chapter in both youth and church-wide curriculum. With this new chapter comes a fresh vision for curriculum's focus, content, and visual display. Below you'll find various highlights of the new features and what to expect as you start to prepare for the quarter ahead.

GETTING STARTED

The first page of each lesson provides the overarching information you can use to plan your class.

PRETEEN TRANSITION

The idea behind the preteen transition is simple: there will always be an influx of preteens joining the youth class, and these options help make students in transition feel comfortable moving from one classroom dynamic to the next. The Preteen Transition offers a quick activity that often highlights more physical action or activity—something that tends to be more common in children's classrooms.

MARCH 3, 2024
SERIES 1: JOHN — GOD WITH US

1.1

THE WORD MADE FLESH

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

THE TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will know Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///
God came in flesh to save us.

PRETEEN TRANSITION (5 MIN)

THE STROOP EFFECT

1. Search "Stroop effect" online for an image, or use the image provided in the resource kit.
2. Ask students if they can say one thing and have their body do something else.
 - a. Show the image. Have students take turns reading the words.
 - b. Then have students take turns saying the name of the ink color.
3. The colors of the words did not match the names. This is called the Stroop effect. It demonstrates how our brain's logic interferes with our reading response and slows us down. Our brain gets confused when our words don't match what we believe.

Daily Devotional Check-in ///

Last week we learned about when people rejected Jesus in spite of all the good He had done. At times, we may reject Jesus. To guard against this, we must focus on the things of God and allow Jesus to be the priority in our lives. What kinds of things can we eliminate from our daily lives to make room for Jesus?

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Every lesson will begin with a narrative to reinforce the themes and ideas of the subject matter, grabbing students' attention in a unique way with a new narrative or scenario every week.

ENGAGE AND RELEASE ACTIVITIES

God's Word for Life offers two options at the beginning and end of each lesson to ensure teachers have a variety of ways to engage students. These options feature physical activities, object lessons, discussion, learning scenarios, and short stories to add variety as well as reinforce the themes and ideas of the material.

LESSON 11

God came in flesh to save us.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? /// (5 MIN)

At some point in your education, you likely have memorized portions of a speech that is considered to be historically important, such as the Gettysburg Address given by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War or the "I Have a Dream" speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. The words shared in those moments were powerful, world-shaping statements that had an impact far beyond what was said in a singular address. In fact, those speeches—and others like them—have taken on a life of their own.

What made those speeches so great? Certainly, the way President Lincoln and Dr. King spoke made an impact. They were strong, imposing men. They were larger-than-life figures, even today. Another factor was the setting; the backdrops of a Civil War battlefield and the steps of the Lincoln Memorial made for startling imagery. The messages were also broadly appealing; they spoke to foundational truths that touch the hearts of people of all backgrounds and walks of life.

THE WORDS SHARED IN THOSE MOMENTS WERE POWERFUL, WORLD-SHAPING STATEMENTS THAT HAD AN IMPACT FAR BEYOND WHAT WAS SAID IN A SINGULAR ADDRESS.

Perhaps the main reason these speeches are remembered and revered, though, was the nature of the men who gave them. These speeches were an outflow of the lives these men led, the philosophies they embodied, and the character they demonstrated. In other words, the "I Have a Dream" speech cannot, in any meaningful way, be separated from Dr. King himself. If he had spoken of civil rights one way but lived another, his speech would have been long forgotten. His words, though, were made manifest by his life.

We could rightly say, "Their words were made flesh." Today we will discuss the most important time in world history that "Word was made flesh."

ENGAGE /// (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

- When multiple witnesses give statements to the police, it's suspicious if they are all identical.
- If everyone uses the exact same words and phrases, they have likely been collaborating—even colluding—because everyone who witnesses an event will have a slightly different perspective or point of view.
- Give each student a sheet of paper and a pen.
- Instruct students to make a list of the events that have happened since they got to church, right up until this moment.
- Once students have finished, compare the lists.
- What is the same, what is slightly different, and why?

OPTION 2

- Have students open their Bibles to John 1.
- Read the first of God, in the source of all power.
- Other words and phrases in John 1 are those that John was reflecting God's light, much like the moon reflects the sun's light?
- Do the students make a list of the positive words John used?
- Ask students how they can implement that kind of language in their own lives.
- Why is John 1 so important? What does it mean?

RELEASE /// (10 MIN)

1. Have students open their Bibles to John 1.

2. Read the first of God, in the source of all power.

3. Other words and phrases in John 1 are those that John was reflecting God's light, much like the moon reflects the sun's light?

4. Do the students make a list of the positive words John used?

5. Ask students how they can implement that kind of language in their own lives.

6. Why is John 1 so important? What does it mean?

PRAYER ///

Jesus, our God, You were the Word made flesh and came to dwell on this earth. You have called me through to be Your holy child. To be the Word made flesh, I will be Your Word through, an empowerment that will lead me to share Your grace and truth.

THE WORD MADE FLESH

I will know Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

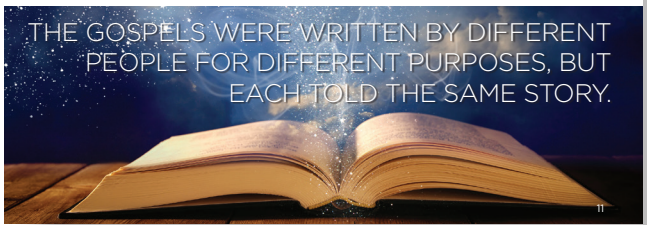
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? /// (25 MIN)

A. In the Beginning

- The Bible has four books called the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- We see many similarities between the first three Gospels, yet they are unique in many ways. They were written by different people for different purposes, but each told the same story.
- To see the difference between the first three Gospels, we can look at how each author opened his book:
 - Matthew began by telling Jesus' lineage, beginning with Abraham. Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience to prove Jesus was the Jewish Messiah.
 - Mark began with the story of Jesus' baptism. Mark was writing to present Jesus as the suffering servant who came with a mission to redeem the world.
 - Luke (who also wrote Acts) began by telling Jesus' lineage as well, but he started with Adam instead of Abraham. Luke was writing to set up the Book of Acts, where he wrote that Jesus was the Savior for everyone, not just for the Jews.
- To make it simple, we could say Matthew presented Jesus as the perfect Jew, Mark presented Jesus as the perfect Servant, and Luke presented Jesus as the perfect Man.
- The fourth Gospel, John, has a unique opening. And, truthfully, much of this book is unique. John started all the way back at the beginning.

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 this passage, "Word" is the Greek term Logos. Logos referred to a thought, idea, or plan. John was saying that from the beginning, before God even began to create the universe, He had an idea, thought, and plan to redeem humanity.
- Spoiler alert—John wrote his Gospel to demonstrate that Jesus was the embodiment of the one true God. We could simply say John presented Jesus as God Almighty.
- In fact, everything that happened throughout the course of Creation, found in Genesis 1, took place with the idea that one day Jesus would come to the earth to redeem us.
- Since Jesus was the image of the invisible God, we can truly say all things were made by Jesus. Nothing was made without His involvement, and nothing was made without intention. In Colossians, Paul said, "All things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16). Every tree, every bird, and every ocean we see all point to Jesus and His redemptive story.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Alongside offerings of multiple options for opening and closing activities God's Word for Life offers foundational biblical teaching in a simple and concise outline for teachers to use. Whether you plan to use this as a basis for your weekly study or plan to expand on the points provided, this section lays out the basis of the story each week. When we can fully grasp the main points of each story, we can better express how we apply the story to students' lives in the following sections.

HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

JR. HIGH AND SR. HIGH BREAKOUTS

God's Word for Life offers a completely new approach to curriculum through a single Youth level that features breakout content tailored for different age levels. These Jr. High and Sr. High Breakouts will be displayed as a spread in the middle of each lesson and will offer unique activities and discussion prompts. Breakouts will also provide a tailored application of the content discussed in the first half of each lesson.

LESSON 11

JR. HIGH BREAKOUT ///

- Using multiple colors of markers, let students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe light.
 - Ask students to add graphics. Examples include: sun, fire, light bulb, candle, flashlight, lamp.
 - Introduce the idea that the sun's light can be harnessed for power. For example, a solar oven can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
- Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

- When you walk into a room that is dark, do you wonder where the light will come from, or do you just flip on the light switch? Most of the time, you probably just flip the switch without even thinking. But what if you flipped the switch and the light did not come on?
 - You may toggle the switch back and forth a few times.
 - You may try to switch out the light bulbs.
 - If you have seen an adult do it before, you might even check the breaker panel to see if a switch was tripped.
- Every light in your house is operated by some kind of source. A light does not produce light by itself; the power comes from somewhere, travels through circuits, and turns on the light.
- In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

- We have been talking about physical light. While Revelation 22 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
- What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room? The darkness vanishes, right? That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
- Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.

THE WORD MADE FLESH

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT ///

- Using multiple colors of markers, have students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe the power of light. Let students add graphics if they wish.
- Introduce the analogy that the sun's light can be harnessed for power.
 - Examples include: the sun's radiation; heating solar panels, converting the sun's rays to electricity.
 - The sun works with chlorophyll in leaves to create energy and help crops grow.
 - Flatbread can be baked in a solar oven.
 - A solar cooker can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
- Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

- While Revelation 22:5 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
 - What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room?
 - The darkness vanishes, right?
 - That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
- Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.
 - When we use our words to glorify God, we speak spiritual life to those around us. That spiritual light displaces the darkness.
 - When you glorify God with your words, you make an eternal difference for those who hear you.
- Although it is considered a great mystery by biblical writers—Jesus being fully God and fully man—Jesus represented God in His entirety when Jesus was born.
 - When Jesus died, He was still God incarnate.
 - When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated sin, death, and Hell.
 - When Jesus ascended, He was glorified.
- Jesus now sits on His throne. When we take our needs to Him in prayer, we are not just talking to a go-between for us and God. When we call on the name of Jesus Christ, we are invoking the one and only true God.
- Just as Jesus was the fullness of God, He fully understands us and will care for all our needs.

Daily Devotional Insight ///
This week we will discuss Jesus' identity. For us to truly know Jesus, we should understand who He is. Jesus was fully God and fully man. We should know how this impacts our faith and how it informs our salvation.

12

13



LESSON 11

JR. HIGH BREAKOUT ///

- Using multiple colors of markers, let students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe light.
 - Ask students to add graphics. Examples include: sun, fire, light bulb, candle, flashlight, lamp.
 - Introduce the idea that the sun's light can be harnessed for power. For example, a solar oven can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
- Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

- When you walk into a room that is dark, do you wonder where the light will come from, or do you just flip on the light switch? Most of the time, you probably just flip the switch without even thinking. But what if you flipped the switch and the light did not come on?
 - You may toggle the switch back and forth a few times.
 - You may try to switch out the light bulbs.
 - If you have seen an adult do it before, you might even check the breaker panel to see if a switch was tripped.
- Every light in your house is operated by some kind of source. A light does not produce light by itself; the power comes from somewhere, travels through circuits, and turns on the light.
- In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

- We have been talking about physical light. While Revelation 22 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
- What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room? The darkness vanishes, right? That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
- Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.
- When we use our words to glorify God, we speak spiritual life to those around us. That spiritual light displaces the darkness.
- When you glorify God with your words, you make an eternal difference for those who hear you.

Daily Devotional Insight ///
This week we will discuss Jesus' identity. For us to truly know Jesus, we should understand who He is and what His birth and divinity mean for us.

12

THE WORD MADE FLESH

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT ///

- Using multiple colors of markers, have students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe the power of light. Let students add graphics if they wish.
- Introduce the analogy that the sun's light can be harnessed for power.
 - Examples include: the sun's radiation; heating solar panels, converting the sun's rays to electricity.
 - The sun works with chlorophyll in leaves to create energy and help crops grow.
 - Flatbread can be baked in a solar oven.
 - A solar cooker can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
- Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

- When you walk into a room that is dark, do you wonder where the light will come from, or do you just flip on the light switch? Most of the time, you probably just flip the switch without even thinking. But what if you flipped the switch and the light did not come on?
 - You may toggle the switch back and forth a few times.
 - You may try to switch out the light bulbs.
 - If you have seen an adult do it before, you might even check the breaker panel to see if a switch was tripped.
- Every light in your house is operated by some kind of source. A light does not produce light by itself; the power comes from somewhere, travels through circuits, and turns on the light.
- In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

- We have been talking about physical light. While Revelation 22 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
- What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room? The darkness vanishes, right? That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
- Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.
 - When we use our words to glorify God, we speak spiritual life to those around us. That spiritual light displaces the darkness.
 - When you glorify God with your words, you make an eternal difference for those who hear you.
- Although it is considered a great mystery by biblical writers—Jesus being fully God and fully man—Jesus represented God in His entirety when Jesus was born.
 - When Jesus died, He was still God incarnate.
 - When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated sin, death, and Hell.
 - When Jesus ascended, He was glorified.
- Jesus now sits on His throne. When we take our needs to Him in prayer, we are not just talking to a go-between for us and God. When we call on the name of Jesus Christ, we are invoking the one and only true God.
- Just as Jesus was the fullness of God, He fully understands us and will care for all our needs.

Daily Devotional Insight ///
This week we will discuss Jesus' identity. For us to truly know Jesus, we should understand who He is. Jesus was fully God and fully man. We should know how this impacts our faith and how it informs our salvation.

13

DEVOTIONAL TIE-IN

Each lesson will feature three areas in which teachers will be prompted to ask about or discuss devotional content from both the previous week and the week of devotionals ahead. This will help to reinforce the need for devotional time each day and push students to engage with the at-home **Daily Devotional Guide**.

EQUIP YOUR STUDENTS FOR DAILY STUDY OF GOD'S WORD

Guiding your students in becoming lifelong Apostolic disciples is an enormous task to accomplish in just an hour on Sunday or Wednesday. Now you can expand your ministry with a tool that guides students in Bible study every day of the week.

This guide provides a daily Bible passage connected to the week's lesson and a corresponding devotion. Each day ends with a final challenge to apply the message of God's Word with both junior high and senior high options.

Make your teaching complete with this student resource by incorporating student feedback into class time. (Prompts are provided in this Leader Guide to help.) Additionally you can calendar the materials to coincide one of two ways:

1. Instruct students to complete the accompanying devotional material during the week to reinforce the Bible passages already taught in the lesson at church.
2. Teach one week behind the suggested schedule in this Leader Guide so students interact with the Bible passages for the lesson during the week at home before the lesson. This option would allow for additional discussion since students will have already reviewed lesson content in advance.

In either scenario, this tool equips students to dig into God's Word every day!



ONLY \$4.99

Order your copy today at www.pentecostalpublishing.com.

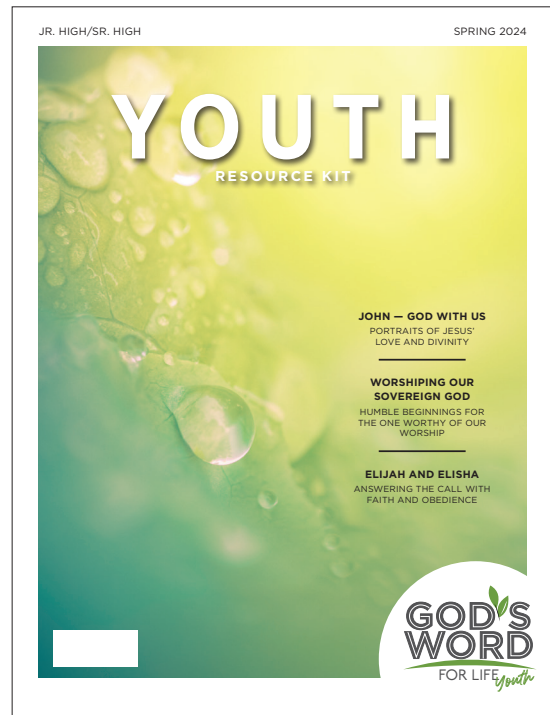
ENLIVEN YOUR LESSONS WITH VIDEOS AND RESOURCES

RESOURCE KIT

Take advantage of the Youth Resource Kit for a robust collection of teaching tools to make each week exciting and engaging.

Contents:

1. A video for each lesson
2. A poster for each of the three series
3. A supplement for adapting each lesson to minister to students affected by disabilities
4. Excerpts from Word Aflame Press books for additional research
5. Social medial calendar and suggested practices
6. Graphics package



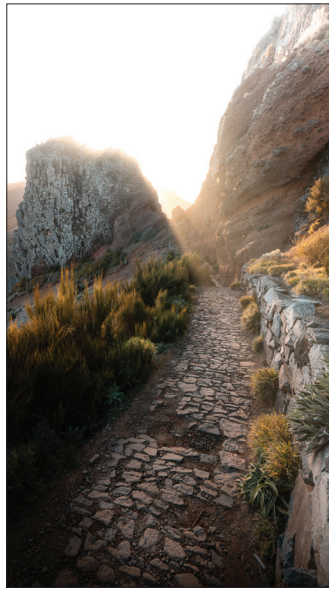
VIDEO CONTENT

Each lesson's opening story will be available as a video within the Resource Kit as a way of engaging students through a visual medium. The Resource Kit will also include contextual videos about the biblical passage as well as training videos to help you in the preparation process.

ONLY \$24.99

Order your copy today at www.pentecostalpublishing.com.





SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Jesus invites us to pray, and He even shares a prayer request of His own: pray for laborers. In His compassion, He invites those laborers to come unto Him and rest, and ultimately prays for all of us—even with our personality differences—to be one.

SERIES 2: JOHN - I AM SAYINGS

This series explores four of the seven “I am” statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. These sayings have been the focus of countless studies and for good reason. They reveal much about Christ, the human manifestation of the invisible God. These proclamations are important to Oneness believers, for they explicitly identify Jesus as the “I AM” of the Old Testament. Furthermore, they are vital for believers who desire to be Christlike. This series will teach us much about the Godhead but much more about what it means to be like Christ, the incarnation of the I AM.

SERIES 3: THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

The greatest gift we have received from God is His Holy Spirit. This series will take a close look at both blessings God gives (fruit and gifts) when He gives us His Spirit.

LISTENING IS THE NEW READING

Access a growing library of books by searching
"Pentecostal Publishing House" on Audible.com





THE WORD MADE FLESH

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

THE TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will know Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///

God came in flesh to save us.

PRETEEN TRANSITION (5 MIN)**THE STROOP EFFECT**

1. Search “Stroop effect” online for an image, or use the image provided in the resource kit.
2. Ask students if they can say one thing and have their body do something else.
 - a. Show the image. Have students take turns reading the words.
 - b. Then have students take turns saying the name of the ink color.
3. The colors of the words did not match the names. This is called the Stroop effect. It demonstrates how our brain’s logic interferes with our reading response and slows us down. Our brain gets confused when our words don’t match what we believe.

Daily Devotional Check-In ///

Last week we learned about when people rejected Jesus in spite of all the good He had done. At times, we may reject Jesus. To guard against this, we must focus on the things of God and allow Jesus to be the priority in our lives. What kinds of things can we eliminate from our daily lives to make room for Jesus?

God came in flesh to save us.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?/// (5 MIN)

At some point in your education, you likely have memorized portions of a speech that is considered to be historically important, such as the Gettysburg Address given by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War or the “I Have a Dream” speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. The words shared in those moments were powerful, world-shaping statements that had an impact far beyond what was said in a singular address. In fact, those speeches—and others like them—have taken on a life of their own.

What made those speeches so great? Certainly, the way President Lincoln and Dr. King spoke made an impact. They were strong, imposing men. They were larger-than-life figures, even today. Another factor was the setting; the backdrops of a Civil War battlefield and the steps of the Lincoln Memorial made for startling imagery. The messages were also broadly appealing; they spoke to foundational truths that touch the hearts of people of all backgrounds and walks of life.

THE WORDS SHARED IN THOSE MOMENTS WERE POWERFUL, WORLD-SHAPING STATEMENTS THAT HAD AN IMPACT FAR BEYOND WHAT WAS SAID IN A SINGULAR ADDRESS.

Perhaps the main reason these speeches are remembered and revered, though, was the nature of the men who gave them. These speeches were an outflow of the lives these men led, the philosophies they embodied, and the character they demonstrated. In other words,

the “I Have a Dream” speech cannot, in any meaningful way, be separated from Dr. King himself. If he had spoken of civil rights one way but lived another, his speech would have been long forgotten. His words, though, were made manifest by his life.

We could rightly say, “Their words were made flesh.” Today we will discuss the most important time in world history that “Word was made flesh.”

ENGAGE/// (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

1. When multiple witnesses give statements to the police, it’s suspicious if they are all identical.
2. If everyone uses the exact same words and phrases, they have likely been collaborating—even colluding—because everyone who witnesses an event will have a slightly different perspective or point of view.
3. Give each student a sheet of paper and a pen.
4. Instruct students to make a list of the events that have happened since they got to church, right up until this moment.
5. Once students have finished, compare the lists.
6. What is the same, what is slightly different, and why?

OPTION 2

1. Give each student a sheet of paper and a pen.
2. Have students write down a description of their favorite dessert.
3. Once students have finished, read each description aloud and see if students recognize the writer’s style.
4. To add a level of difficulty, prior to class, get a few delicious descriptions from church people outside the class.
5. If possible, include the youth pastor and pastor.

I will know Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? /// (25 MIN)

A. In the Beginning

1. The Bible has four books called the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
2. We see many similarities between the first three Gospels, yet they are unique in many ways. They were written by different people for different purposes, but each told the same story.
3. To see the difference between the first three Gospels, we can look at how each author opened his book:
 - a. Matthew began by telling Jesus' lineage, beginning with Abraham. Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience to prove Jesus was the Jewish Messiah.
 - b. Mark began with the story of Jesus' baptism. Mark was writing to present Jesus as the suffering servant who came with a mission to redeem the world.
 - c. Luke (who also wrote Acts) began by telling Jesus' lineage as well, but he started with Adam instead of Abraham. Luke was writing to set up the Book of Acts, where he wrote that Jesus was the Savior for everyone, not just for the Jews.
4. To make it simple, we could say Matthew presented Jesus as the perfect Jew, Mark presented Jesus as the perfect Servant, and Luke presented Jesus as the perfect Man.
5. The fourth Gospel, John, has a unique opening. And, truthfully, much of this book is unique. John started all the way back at the beginning.

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.

6. In this passage, "Word" is the Greek term *Logos*. *Logos* referred to a thought, idea, or plan. John was saying that from the beginning, before God even began to create the universe, He had an idea, thought, and plan to redeem humanity.
7. Spoiler alert—John wrote his Gospel to demonstrate that Jesus was the embodiment of the one true God. We could simply say John presented Jesus as God Almighty.
8. In fact, everything that happened throughout the course of Creation, found in Genesis 1, took place with the idea that one day Jesus would come to the earth to redeem us.
9. Since Jesus was the image of the invisible God, we can truly say all things were made by Jesus. Nothing was made without His involvement, and nothing was made without intention. In Colossians, Paul said, "All things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16). Every tree, every bird, and every ocean we see all point to Jesus and His redemptive story.

THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN BY DIFFERENT
PEOPLE FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES, BUT
EACH TOLD THE SAME STORY.



JR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. Using multiple colors of markers, let students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe light.
 - a. Ask students to add graphics. Examples include: sun, fire, light bulb, candle, flashlight, lamp.
 - b. Introduce the idea that the sun's light can be harnessed for power. For example, a solar oven can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
2. Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

1. When you walk into a room that is dark, do you wonder where the light will come from, or do you just flip on the light switch? Most of the time, you probably just flip the switch without even thinking. But what if you flipped the switch and the light did not come on?
 - a. You may toggle the switch back and forth a few times.
 - b. You may try to switch out the light bulb.
 - c. If you have seen an adult do it before, you might even check the breaker panel to see if a switch was tripped.
2. Every light in your house is operated by some kind of source. A light does not produce light by itself; the power comes from somewhere, travels through circuits, and turns on the light.
3. In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

4. We have been talking about physical light. While Revelation 22 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
5. What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room? The darkness vanishes, right? That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
6. Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.
7. When we use our words to glorify God, we speak spiritual life to those around us. That spiritual light displaces the darkness.
8. When you glorify God with your words, you make an eternal difference for those who hear you.

**Daily Devotional
Insight !!!**

This week we will discuss Jesus' identity. For us to truly know Jesus, we should understand who He is and what His birth and divinity mean for us.

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. Using multiple colors of markers, have students fill a whiteboard or posterboard with words and phrases that describe the power of light. Let students add graphics if they wish.
2. Introduce the analogy that the sun's light can be harnessed for power.
 - a. Examples include: the sun's radiation, heating solar panels, converting the sun's rays to electricity.
 - b. The sun works with chlorophyll in leaves to create energy and help crops grow.
 - c. Flatbread can be baked in a solar oven.
 - d. A solar oven can be created from a pizza box and foil, depending on your region and season.
3. Then using a different color of marker, change or add to each word or phrase on the board to make it applicable to ways the light of God's love for us can be harnessed for power.

1. In the Book of John, we learn about one single source for light.

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.

2. While Revelation 22:5 teaches that Jesus is the source of all physical light (remember, all of creation reflects Him), He is also the source of spiritual light.
 - a. What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room?
 - b. The darkness vanishes, right?
 - c. That is because light overwhelms darkness, not the other way around.
3. Jesus is the spiritual light that has come to destroy spiritual darkness. Anywhere Jesus is glorified, the darkness of this world has to flee.
 - a. When we use our words to glorify God, we speak spiritual life to those around us. That spiritual light displaces the darkness.
 - b. When you glorify God with your words, you make an eternal difference for those who hear you.
4. Although it is considered a great mystery by biblical writers—Jesus being fully God and fully man—Jesus represented God in His entirety when Jesus was born.
 - a. When Jesus died, He was still God incarnate.
 - b. When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated sin, death, and Hell.
 - c. When Jesus ascended, He was glorified.
5. Jesus now sits on His throne. When we take our needs to Him in prayer, we are not just talking to a go-between for us and God. When we call on the name of Jesus Christ, we are invoking the one and only true God.
6. Just as Jesus was the fullness of God, He fully understands us and will care for all our needs.

Daily Devotional Insight !!!

This week we will discuss Jesus' identity. For us to truly know Jesus, we should understand who He is. Jesus was fully God and fully man. We should know how this impacts our faith and how it informs our salvation.

B. We Beheld His Glory

1. Imagine you are home and someone knocks on your door. You look through the peephole and notice a camera crew outside. It also looks like someone is holding a giant check. You can't tell the exact amount, but you see at least six zeros on the check. You quickly run to get your parents. When they open the door, the person holding the check says, "You have won two million dollars!" You are ecstatic, knowing your entire life is about to change. Your parents look at each other; then they look at the person holding the check. To your surprise they say, "No thank you; we don't want the money." Then they close the door.
 - a. Many things may be running through your mind in that moment, but the biggest thing would likely be, *My parents are crazy. After all, it's free money, right?*
 - b. Unfortunately, when Jesus came to earth, many people rejected Him, and He was far more valuable than just two million dollars.

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.

2. 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.
3. At times we will share the gospel with people, but they will not be willing to receive our message.
 - a. We may feel discouraged because we want to see our family and friends saved, but they will not listen to what we have to say.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Many who were once hard-hearted have been won over by a consistent Christian witness.
4. Not everyone rejected Jesus, though.

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.

5. Jesus offered those who believed in Him far more than freedom from an oppressive government; He offered them power.
6. As beings created in the image of God, we have the opportunity to be born again and receive God's power. Just two chapters later, John explained exactly what being born again means.
 - a. The more we walk in God's power, the more we reflect Him, but Jesus does not empower us just so we can overcome sin in our lives.
 - b. Certainly it is necessary to overcome sin, but there are also specific things Jesus wants to work in us.
 - c. We do not get to use God's power to work our own will; we must work the things He is calling us to work.
7. What does Jesus want us to do with His power? We see the answer to that question in the way Jesus lived His life.

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.

I will know Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

8. Jesus was the Word made flesh. He was the express image of the invisible God.
 - a. Jesus was the redemptive plan of God—crafted before the world began—realized.
 - b. When people beheld Jesus, they saw the glory of God. How was the glory of God manifested?
9. Jesus was full of grace. *Grace* has often been defined as “the unmerited favor of God.” We could also call it “God reaching down to us.” Grace is the place where Jesus connects with us and shows us love and mercy we do not deserve. Every interaction Jesus had with humanity was to build them up and make them better.
 - a. Jesus healed sickness and disease.
 - b. Jesus forgave.
 - c. Jesus cast out demons.
 - d. Jesus showed compassion.
10. Jesus was also full of truth. People declared, “No man ever spoke like this Man” (John 7:46, NKJV). Even as a twelve-year-old boy, Jesus’ mastery of the things of God captivated audiences and confounded religious leaders.
 - a. Just as certainly as Jesus was a miracle worker, He was also a teacher.
 - b. Though His message was often not easy to receive, it was always doctrinally sound.
11. Just as Jesus came to offer grace and truth to those He met in the flesh, He still offers grace and truth today to all who encounter Him. He encounters people through you and me. People come to understand Jesus’ grace and truth by seeing it reflected in our lives.
 - a. We must be willing to share the truth; we cannot hide from our faith. In a world that is constantly arguing that all ideas are equal, we must stand firm on solid biblical truth. Jesus is the only path to salvation, and if we do not share the truth with others, we are not fulfilling our call to be witnesses.
 - b. We must also be willing to show grace. To confront people with the truth while lacking grace is to do more harm than good. It is not always easy to give others grace. We tend to judge others by their actions while we judge ourselves by our intentions. We must show grace to others when they are unkind, when they make mistakes, when they challenge us on our beliefs, and when they reject the truth we are trying to share with them.
12. 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.

YOU HAVE WON!



RELEASE/// (10 MIN)**OPTION 1**

1. The sun is an immense source of power, but words of forgiveness are even more powerful.
2. The Son of God came to make forgiveness available to us.
 - a. What words or phrases do you use when you forgive someone?
 - b. Why is our language important when we make amends?
 - c. How does our language change when we are asking for forgiveness versus when we are accepting it?
3. The words we say, type, and text wield great power.
 - a. We can either make or ruin someone's day with just our words.
 - b. Take time to think of some phrases and compliments that could help and encourage others.
 - c. Practice using these phrases and compliments on each other.

OPTION 2

1. Have students open their Bibles to John 1.
2. Jesus, the Son of God, is the source of all power.
3. What words and phrases in John 1 give the idea that John was reflecting God's light, much like the moon reflects the sun's light?
4. On the whiteboard, make a list of the positive words John used.
5. Ask students how they can implement that kind of language in their own lives.
 - a. What words stood out the most to you?
 - b. Why is John 1 so important? What does it teach us?

**PRAYER**///

Jesus, we are grateful You were the Word made flesh and came to redeem us. We know You have called the church to be Your body. Teach us to be the Word made flesh as well. Let Your Spirit flow through us, empowering us to show Your grace and truth.