

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 Jesus Birth, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Make It Real Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Trinity

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.

While this will be pretty easy, your object will be Jesus Christ. 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.

Once they get it, then introduce the gospel of John. The reason we played this game is that this book of the Bible tells us more about Jesus Christ -- who He is, why He came, what He wants – than any other book of the Bible! In other words, it answers a lot of our questions about Jesus!

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” that Jesus Christ came so that we might believe in Him and have our sins forgiven to eternal life is most clearly presented.
- 2) **Who?:** The source of this gospel is John the apostle, who was one of the original twelve apostles, a leader among the early church, and also known in this book as the “disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20-24).
- 3) **When?:** Most experts believe it was written around 90 AD, 60 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 4) **Why?:** John actually tells us why he wrote this in John 20:31. Jesus walks off of the pages of John’s gospel and into our world in such a real and intimate way so that we 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 “Word” in these two verses.

1) The Word was “in the beginning”.

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

A: “In the beginning God...” In John 1:1 it is “In the beginning the Word...” John is purposefully referencing Genesis to show the eternal 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”. This teaches that this Word actually is God. John does not say that there are two Gods, but still one God as the rest of the Bible states.

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 to when he is talking about the Word? Jesus!

John 1:3: Here we learn something else amazing about Jesus. He is the Creator! He made you and He made me.

Teachers: Draw on the board one large box divided into two boxes and label them as “Created Things” and “Uncreated Things”. This represents everything that exists. In the uncreated things box, put God. In the created things box, ask the kids for some things that belong in that box (i.e. animals, humans, earth, stars, etc.)

Now, take a cross or a coin or something and tell the kids that this represents Jesus. Ask them which box He belongs in. John 1:3 teaches that “ALL CREATED THINGS” came into being through Jesus Christ so He belongs in the “uncreated things” box with God.

Next, take another coin or something else and tell the kids that this represents the Holy Spirit. Ask them which box they think the Holy Spirit belongs in. He also belongs in the “Uncreated Things” box because He is also God. Later on in this gospel (John 14:26, John 15:26) we will see the Holy Spirit described as God, but as a third and separate Person from the Father and Jesus Christ.

These first three verses of John’s gospel help us understand the Trinity: That there 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. 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 is not only talking about Him as the Creator of all living things, but He is also the One to whom we look to for how we should live today and also for eternal life.

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: John 1:4-5 teaches 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**. And therefore, we know what is good by knowing Him and what He has told us in Scripture.

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 also sinned and have done bad things.

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

A: Yes! We cannot be with God in our sin! 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 meeting before a big event designed to generate enthusiasm and 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 Messiah. *

In v. 6 it says that he was sent from God. John the Baptist coming as the pep rally leader was actually prophesied hundreds of years before in the OT (Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3-5)!

v. 8: Notice that he says he was not the Light, but came to point people to the Light.

John 1:10-11: Imagine going to a pep rally, getting all excited about the coming event, it happens, but then you just think, "This is it"?

That is very similar to what happened when Jesus came. Notice in v. 11 it says that Jesus, the promised Messiah, came even to His own, but they did not receive Him! God's people rejected their own Messiah! They didn't want a Messiah that would save them from their sins, but a Messiah that would restore the nation of Israel to its former glory.

John 1:12-13: But not everybody rejected.

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, or make it our own. Jesus offers us the way to be with 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 Christ, is God, the Creator of all things. But here we learn that the Word became one of us, a man!

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

Q: Is this the Jesus you believe 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 fallen sinful world as man.

Key Point: The last point above is the most amazing. Why would God lower Himself, humble Himself, and enter our world as one of us? To rescue us! To save us! To exalt us so that we 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

Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Godman”

Scripture: John 1:1-14

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

Teachers/Parents: We presented Jesus Christ as the “Godman” or the superhero of superheroes. What are some of your favorite superheroes? Discuss some reasons why Jesus Christ is better than all of them and why.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Compare John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1.** What is common between the two verses and why do you think John may have made his gospel look so strikingly like Genesis 1:1?
- 2) **John 1:1-2** helps us better understand the Trinity. This doctrine is essential to Christianity in that it teaches that there is one God who has eternally existed in three Persons. In these verses, where do you see the idea of there being only one God? Where do you see the idea of God being more than one Person?
- 3) Some people say they don’t believe in the Trinity because they cannot fully understand it. While it is hard to understand, is that a good reason to not believe it, especially if the Bible teaches it? Read Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 2:18, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, and Matthew 3:16-17 for just a few examples of where the Scriptures teach there is one God existing in three Persons.
- 4) **Read John 1:3.** There are some religious cults that look Christian on the outside, but teach that Jesus Christ is a created being, and not God? How can you use this verse to counter such a view?
- 5) **Read John 1:12.** We spent some time discussing this verse and what it means to “receive” Jesus Christ. In the “Christmas Story” movie there is a scene at the end where the boys “receive” socks as a Christmas gift and throw it over their shoulders. Do you think this is how Jesus would have us “receive” Him?
- 6) **Read John 1:14.** This when coupled with John 1:1-3 teaches that Jesus is both God and man. Understanding that Jesus is God and that He willfully entered our world as one of us to be our Savior is the most amazing fact of all history. Read **2 Corinthians 8:9.** How does better understanding who He is and what He gave up in entering our world as a baby on that first Christmas change how we worship and obey Him?