

John 1:1-14

God's Christmas Invitation

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Memory Verse: John 1:12 *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*

Lesson Focus: Most of us will be celebrating Christmas in some way as “guests” in someone else’s home this month. As we look at the prologue of John’s gospel, we will also stress how each and every one of us are guests in God’s world, and rebels at that! Yet, we will see how God Himself became man at Christmas to make it possible for us rebel guests to not only be restored to Him, but to become His own beloved children!

Activities and Crafts: Nativity Coloring Picture and Jesus Word Search
Find the Treasure Discussion Qs for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for ALL grades: 3D Joy Nativity

Starter Activity: Christmas Charades

Consider getting the lesson started by playing a quick game of charades. We will supply you with several slips of paper with different Christmas-themed ideas on each for the kids to act out. Have kids take turns coming up, picking one of them, and then silently acting each out to get the class to guess what it is (also consider having kids come up in pairs to act out together). The first kid to get it right then gets to come next and act out the next one, and so on. We will supply you with several, but don’t hesitate to add your own! *

Afterwards, transition into the lesson by having some discussion about how you all will be celebrating Christmas this season. Notice the important idea that we want to draw out of this discussion is of the kids being “guests”.

Q: How many of you will be traveling to someone else’s home to celebrate Christmas?

Q: Where will you be going?

Teachers: Consider sharing your current Christmas plans or some childhood Christmas stories of where you were a “guest” at Christmas.

While some of you may be hosting at your own home, it sounds like many of you will be “guests” in someone else’s home. Knowing that we are “guests” in someone else’s home changes how we act and behave, doesn’t it? (for we want to honor our hosts)

Well, as we open our Bibles today to talk a little bit about Christmas, we’re going to see that there is another place where we are all guests. I bet this is something that you haven’t considered before. And rightly understood it changes how we think, act, and behave!
Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

We are taking a break from Acts today and will read the introduction of John's gospel. This book gives us important details on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and was written by the apostle John who was one of Jesus's closest disciples. *

John 1:1: WHOA! John's gospel starts out with some BIG ideas! He takes us all the way back to "the beginning".

Q: What is this referring to? A: Creation! The beginning of time and the whole universe.

In **Genesis 1:1**, it says, "*In the beginning God...*". But here in **John 1:1** it says, "*In the beginning was the Word...*"

- And John goes onto say that this "Word" was not only *with* God, but *was* God!

John 1:2: And this Word is a "He". This means that this Word is a Person. *

Q: So WHO do you think John is referring to when he is talking about the Word? Jesus, the Son of God! (**Teachers:** Consider rereading these two verses but replace "Word" with "Jesus" to make it a little bit clearer)

These verses very clearly teach that Jesus is God, a separate person from God the Father (and God the Spirit), yet there are not two Gods, but one!

John 1:3: To make this point even clearer, John teaches us that Jesus, as God, created ALL things! And that means that 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.

These first three verses of John's gospel help us understand the Trinity: That there is one God in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Not three Gods, but one. Not all the same Person, but three. *

Now at the beginning of our lesson we talked about being "guests" in someone else's house this Christmas. But do you see where else you are a guest every day? This is God's world and you are His guest! That's right: your life is not your own, but you belong to God! * (**Teachers:** Go back to the whiteboard and ask the kids which box should be labeled "guests" and which should be labeled "hosts" and add that to your illustration)

John 1:4-5: Furthermore, God is the ultimate source and sustainer of your life, my life, and all life. * But these verses also talk about light and darkness, or good and evil.

Q: How do we know what is good and evil? * A: From God who is Himself perfectly good and who has instructed us about good/evil and right/wrong in the Scriptures.

In **Genesis 1** we get more detail about how God made all things. And one thing that is constantly repeated is that all that He had made was very GOOD. (**Genesis 1:31**)

Q: But what happened? Adam and Eve, the first “guests” in God’s good creation chose to do evil, shaming their good host by rejecting Him and doing whatever THEY wanted.

In the same way, I bet many of you are going to a house this Christmas that is going to have a wonderful spread of GOODNESS. Good food, good gifts, good decorations, etc.

Q: But as a guest in their house, are you in charge or is the host in charge? A: The host! You can’t just do whatever you want! * Imagine sitting down at your Christmas dinner and deciding to start a huge food fight. Christmas dinner would be ruined for everyone! And this is exactly what Adam and Eve did: RUIN God’s good creation for everyone.

Boys and Girls: And we are no better! As the Bible says (**Romans 3:23**), we all have sinned and have shamed God, our excellent host, making us guilty. We are lost in the darkness. * But the story doesn’t end there! **John 1:5** says God is coming to pierce the darkness, making a way for rebellious people to be saved, rescued, and restored to Him! *

John 1:6-9: This describes John the Baptist who was a witness to this coming Light that would rescue people from sin and darkness. The Bible says that his job was to get people ready for God’s coming Rescuer. (**Luke 1:17**)

John 1:10-11: And he did! God, in His lovingkindness, appointed men like John the Baptist to invite all of us rebel guests to repent, turn away from our sin, and come back to Him. But most of the guests reject this gracious offer of their host. *

John 1:12-13: But not everybody rejected! Some instead **receive** God’s invitation to be rescued from sin and darkness.

Q: What does it mean to **receive** something? A: It means to take something that we are given and make it our own. What do you want most for Christmas this year? If it is given to you, are you going to receive it, or are you going to reject it? You will treasure it! And that is exactly what God wants us to do with His offer to be saved: Treasure it! *

For look at what is included in this offer. Those who believe and receive become children of God! * That means that believers are no longer merely guests in God’s world, they are His family! What an amazing offer despite our sin and rebellion! *

John 1:14: This brings us back to where we started our study. We learned that the Word, Jesus Christ, is God, the Creator of all things. But here we learn that the Word became like us, human! This is the miracle we remember at Christmas. We marvel at the fact that the baby in the manger is both God and man: The God-man come down to rescue us full of grace and truth. Immanuel: God with us!

Key Point: So let's put all of this together with a few takeaways for your Christmas celebration.

- 1) This Christmas when you are a guest in someone else's home, remember that you are also a guest in God's world! (**John 1:3**) And as a guest in God's world, know that your sins have shamed your host, a problem that you cannot fix on your own.
- 2) This Christmas when you receive your gifts, remember Jesus, the Father's gift of love sent for you to receive and treasure. (**John 1:12**) By trusting in His life, death, and resurrection for your sins, you are not only restored to your host as a favored guest, but you become His child! * If you have never done this before, make today the day where you believe and receive the forgiveness of your sins! (**John 3:16**)
- 3) This Christmas when you turn on your Christmas lights, remember Jesus, the Light that came into the world to pierce the darkness. (**John 1:5**) Follow Him into the Light by resisting evil and doing good. Not so you can earn His love, but because you are loved as a forgiven child of the King!

FIND THE TREASURE

Mediterranean World
Countries or Areas and Islands



Read John 1:12
What do you think it means to "receive" Jesus?
Have you?

PARENT CHALLENGE
Where are you a "guest" every day of your life?

Read John 1:14
What did the Son of God do in order to make a way for us to be saved?

