



Unit .28

Christmas

The Word Made Flesh

Scripture

John 1:10-18



10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him.

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, **13** who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. **14** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one

and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, “This was the one of whom I said, ‘The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’”)

16 Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, **17** for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him.

When have you wanted to help someone (or even an animal), but couldn't help them to understand why or how?

Why was it necessary that God became one of us?



99 Essential Doctrines

Adoption

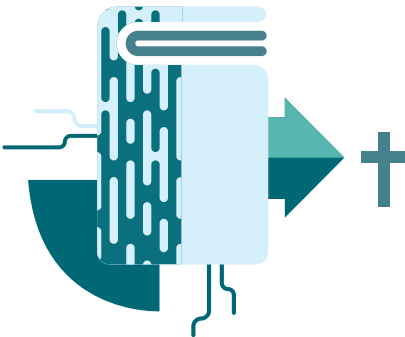
Adoption into God's family is one the positive benefits of justification. Not only are we pardoned from the judgment against us through justification, but we also experience a change of identity—we become children of God (John 1:12; Gal. 4:5). Through adoption our relationship with God, which was once lost through the fall, is now restored, resulting in the benefits of being an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17).

Main Point

Jesus is the living Word who came to reveal God to us.

How is the character and nature of God visible in the life of Jesus?

When has your own joy increased as you have lived for God and not yourself?



Christ Connection

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, the One who came to reveal God perfectly to us and give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Considering our salvation is completely of grace and entirely because of Christ, how does this move you to worship?

In Defense



Jesus wasn't born just anywhere—He was born in “the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.” This fact was foretold by the prophet Micah eight hundred years earlier (Mic. 5:2). When the Roman empire required that all people travel to the towns of their ancestors, Joseph traveled with Mary approximately 90 miles from their hometown of Nazareth south to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-3). Once Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they found that “there was no guest room available for them.” Most people in Bethlehem lived in one-room homes, and the animal's feeding troughs were typically in the family's living area. Although the animals likely stayed outside, accommodations were made in the wall for an animal to stick his head in to eat from the trough. Larger homes had an adjoining room where guests could sleep. So, the young couple likely slept in the living area and when Jesus was born, His first crib was an inglorious feeding trough.



Head

What does it mean that grace and truth came through Jesus, as compared with the law?

How did Jesus serve as the perfect picture of God?



Heart

How are you tempted to only know the truth instead of serving God from the heart?

How is God calling to you show His grace to others in your life?

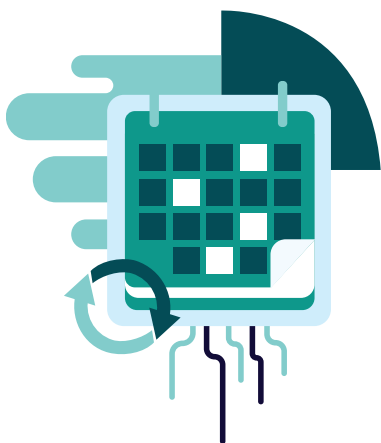


Hands

What is something specific in God's Word that you need to live out?

How are you daily walking in obedience to God's Word?

Daily Devotions



Day 1

John 1:1-5

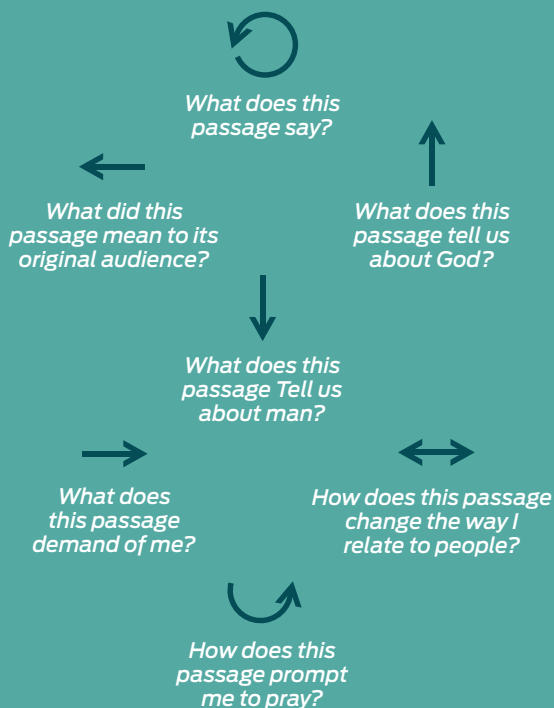
With the first portion of John's prologue speaking about the Word's eternal divinity and cosmic activity, why is the middle portion concerned with John the Baptist (vv. 6-9)?

The Old Testament pointed forward to a messenger whom God would send to prepare the way for the Messiah. In Isaiah 40:3, a voice is described as crying out, "Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert." In Malachi 3:1, "See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me." John the Baptist was not the light, but he pointed to the light—to Jesus, the eternal Word, the One who shines life-giving light to humanity. The forerunner himself therefore testified that Jesus is the Messiah who was and is the eternal Word.

This Christmas, let's make sure we don't lose sight of the staggering significance of the incarnation. John the Baptist, the last in line of the old-covenant prophets, prepared people for the coming of the Messiah who was also God. The true light indeed was coming into the world.

Why is it overwhelming to consider the cosmic breadth of the Word's activity?

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day 2

John 1:6-9

“The true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world” (v. 9). What does this light do?

First, it opens our eyes to the truth of Jesus. We live in darkness without Christ and the only way that we can come to know Him is because the light shines in the darkness. Second, the light exposes. The light rightly judges all humankind—our works, and even our motives and desires. We don’t see our lives accurately until we see ourselves in the light of Jesus. Third, the light guides us. The Holy Spirit, as He helps us understand Scripture, guides us in the ways we are to live. Finally, the light divides. Though eternal life is offered to all humanity, the light nonetheless divides those who reject Christ from those who turn to Him. Jesus, the true Light, came into the world so that all might believe.

How have you seen these works of the Word’s light—illuminating, exposing, guiding, and dividing—in your own life?

Day 3

John 1:10-13

Adoption is a beautiful picture of the gospel in the home. Apart from Jesus Christ, we were all orphans, separated from God. We were all in sin, alienated from the life God desires for us, but God has adopted us through faith in Christ (Gal. 4:4-7). We are made part of God’s family through our faith in Jesus. What an incredible thought: we who were once enemies of God could be called children of God and co-heirs with Christ, receiving His inheritance (Rom. 8:16-17). It’s all because of God’s grace and mercy: “See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children—and we are!” (1 John 3:1).

What are the benefits of being a child of God that most stand out to you?

Day 4

John 1:14-15

In verse 14, the apostle John brings himself into the story: “We observed his glory...” In other words, John was saying, I was there with the others, and we witnessed the Son’s incarnate glory. John saw the transfiguration of the Lord on the mountain, where Jesus’ face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light. John heard the voice of the Father say, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him” (Mark 9:7). This witness is essential to John, as stated in his first epistle: “What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). And he wrote about these things “so that our joy may be complete” (v. 4).

In what ways do you testify to those around you of what you have seen and heard of Jesus?

Day 5

John 1:16-18

As the eternal Word, Jesus revealed God to us. Further, He identified with us as a human being. The last phrase, “he has revealed him,” in verse 18 means that Jesus came to clarify for us who God is. The reason Jesus came to this earth is because God wants to be known, and Jesus is the fullest way we can know who God is. Not only does Jesus identify with God. In putting on human flesh, Jesus identified with us in our humanity (Heb. 4:15). Have you ever thought, “Where is God?” Or, “Why is He allowing this to happen to me?” Christmas is meant to tell us that God does care—and He does understand. In fact, God cared so much that Jesus became a man in order to experience the things we do. We have a Savior who not only suffered with us, but also suffered for us in order one day to end all suffering.

How does it bring comfort to you to know that the Son of God cares about human suffering and experienced it Himself as a human being?