



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

YEAR 3

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WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

CHRISTMAS WEEK 1

The pre-existence of the Son of God

John 1:1–5

DAY 1

The Word was always God • John 1:1–2

READ

John 1:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:1–2

The story of Christmas begins at the very beginning. No matter how far back you go, something—or Someone—was there. He didn't come into existence. He is *pre-existent, always there, always living*. There was *never a time when He was not alive*. Who is this? As soon as John says, "In the beginning," we think, "In the beginning, God" (Gen 1:1). But that's not what John says! He says, "In the beginning was the Word." That is shocking, since only God has always existed. John is talking about a Word who is pre-existent, eternal, and seems very much like God Himself. So who is this Word? We know that we use words to communicate our thoughts and intentions. We use them to reveal ourselves to others and to get things done. Similarly, in the Old Testament, God used His Word to reveal Himself (1 Sam 3:21; Jer 1:4) and do His work of creation (Ps 33:6) and salvation (107:20). So whoever this Word is, He must come from the Father to make the Father known and to do the Father's will.

ASK

1. What does John call Jesus?
The Word.
2. Why is Jesus called the Word?
We use words to reveal ourselves to others and to get things done. The Father uses the Son to reveal Himself to us and to do the Father's work.
3. Did Jesus first start living when He was born?
No. He has always been alive, no matter how far back you go.
4. What does pre-existent mean?
It means that Jesus has always been alive.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus came to show us God. How important is it to you to get to know Jesus?
2. Why is it hard for us to fully grasp what it means to be "eternal"?

DAY 2

The Word was with God • John 1:1–2

READ

John 1:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:1–2

The Word was with God. He existed in a personal relationship with God. So the Word is a person, but He is not the same person as the Father. Long ago God hinted at this when He said, “Let Us make man in Our image” (Gen 1:26). From the beginning, God has had an eternal companion who is equally Creator and is equally represented by mankind. But isn’t God the only Creator and the only pattern for mankind? Yes, so John tells us plainly, “And the Word was God.” This is not just saying that the Word was in some way divine, since there is another Greek word for that. Rather, God’s eternal companion is also God’s very *self*. The Word is God in His very *nature* and essence. He is God at *the core of who He is*. Once we include the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2), we have the *Trinity: the three-in-one God*. So this is the Word John is talking about: someone who has always existed and is equal to God, yet is sent by God to reveal Him and do His work.

ASK

1. Is Jesus the same as God the Father?
No, but they have always been in a close relationship together.
2. Is Jesus like God, or is Jesus God?
Jesus is God: He has the exact same nature as the Father. We know He is God because He is eternal, Creator, and self-existent (uncreated).
3. What is the Trinity?
The three-in-one God: God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSS

1. Read Genesis 1:26. How does this verse hint that God is more than one person?
2. How does the Trinity show that there was love and relationship even before creation?

DAY 3

The Word is the creator God • John 1:3

READ

John 1:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:3

The Word is sent by God to do His work. A major part of that work is creation. Since John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word,” instead of “In the beginning, God,” we already expect that John will go on to say “the Word created” instead of “God created” (Gen 1:1). And we already know God created by His word: “And

God said, ‘Let there be light...’” (Gen 1:3a). So it makes sense that the Word is the Creator. This confirms that the Word is God, since creation is something only God can do (Isa 45:18; Rev 4:11). But could God have created the Word, and then the Word created everything else? No, first, because nothing was ever created besides what the Word created. Second, while the Word simply “was,” everything else was “made” or, literally, “came into being.” Since there was never a moment when the Word came into being, He is the uncreated Creator.

ASK 

1. What work of God did Jesus do?
He created every created thing in the beginning.
2. What does this show us about Jesus?
He is God, because only God can create.
3. Could God have created the Word, and then the Word created everything else?
No. Nothing was ever created besides what the Word created, and the Word never came into being.

DISCUSS 

1. How is Jesus different than everything else in the created world?
2. When you create something, do you own it? What does Jesus own (Ps 24:1–2)? Have you obeyed Him as your owner this week?

DAY 4*The Word was life and light • John 1:4–5***READ** 

John 1:1–5

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 1:4–5**

The Word is *self-existent*, *having life in Himself*. It is His nature to be alive, showing again that He is God (Exod 3:14; Acts 17:28). Also, because of the life that is in Him, He is able to create life (Gen 1:14–31). Not only that, but life continues to be in Him—He goes on keeping creation alive (Col 1:17), and He also creates new, spiritual life (John 4:14). This life is also the light of men. Light and life always go together, just as light allowed the rest of creation to come alive in the beginning (Gen 1:3). The Word’s light is for humans, because God’s life and light are for humans (Ps 36:9; 56:13). Just as this life and light came through God’s written Word in the Old Testament (Ps 119:105; Prov 6:23), so now they come through the living Word. The light of the Word shines in the darkness, allowing people to see God and know what He is like. The darkness cannot “overcome” His light because no matter how much Satan and sinful people fight against the Word, they cannot win. This is the Word, always living, always shining, always winning.

ASK 

1. What does Jesus have in Himself?
Life that lasts forever.
2. Why is Jesus able to make us alive to God?
Because Jesus has life in Himself.
3. How is Jesus able to show us who God is?
Because His life is light that can shine through the darkness of our sin.
4. Can the darkness ever defeat the light?
No. Satan and sinners cannot win against the Word.

DISCUSS 

1. How is Jesus the great “I am” (John 8:58)?
2. Why do sinners hate the light (John 3:20)? Do you try to hide your sin, or do you fight against your sin by admitting it to God and to others?

DAY 5

Conclusion: The Word is Jesus • John 1:1–5

READ

John 1:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:1–5

Imagine being there in Bethlehem as Jesus' first tiny cries broke the crisp night air. Would you have realized who this newborn was? He is the Word who has always been alive (John 1:14; 8:58; 17:5). He shows us exactly who the Father is because He has exactly the same nature as the Father (10:30; 14:9; Heb 1:1–3). He does the Father's work (John 5:30; Heb 1:3) of creating (Col 1:16) and saving (1:20) because He is fully God (1:19). He has life in Himself and offers new, *eternal, never-ending* life to all who believe in Him (John 3:15–17; 5:26). His life is the light (8:12) that shines in the darkness (Isa 9:2), opens blind eyes (42:6–7), shows God's glory to all nations (49:6; 60:1–5), and brings healing and peace (Mal 4:2; Luke 1:79). The darkness of Satan could not kill Him (Matt 2:16) or disqualify Him (4:1–11), for Jesus is the glorious, life-giving, unbeatable Word, our Mighty God and Savior (Isa 9:6; Tit 2:13; Heb 1:8).

ASK

1. Who is the Word?
Jesus.
2. How does Jesus show us who the Father is?
He has exactly the same nature as the Father.
3. Does Jesus do the same work as the Father?
Yes. He does the Father's work of creating and saving. This shows us that He is fully God.
4. What kind of life does Jesus give to all who believe in Him?
New, eternal, never-ending life.

DISCUSS

1. Was Jesus' birth in Bethlehem the beginning of His life?
2. What or who brings you greatest joy at Christmas? Do you seek your own pleasure, or are you most excited by how amazing Jesus is?

NEXT WEEK

The incarnation of the Son of God

John 1:6–18



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

CHRISTMAS WEEK 2

The incarnation of the Son of God

John 1:6–18



DAY 1

He came to give light • John 1:6–9

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:6–9

At Christmas we can enjoy the greatest relationship of all because the greatest person of all came to us. We can know God personally as our own Father because God Himself broke into our world to make Himself known. This was so special that God wanted to make sure people knew it was true. He wanted them to believe in the One who was coming, so He sent a **witness**, someone to tell the truth and report the facts. John the Baptist came with God's authority to **testify**, to solemnly speak the truth about the light. The light is the Word, the eternal God and the always-living companion of God who created all things (John 1:1–4). He is the light because He shines with God's glory so that people can see and know God (Ps 27:1; Ezek 1:26–28). He is the **"true light"** because He is the greatest and ultimate of all lights. Only the true light perfectly and fully displays God's goodness, and every display of God's glory throughout all history comes from Him—and now He was about to personally come into the world!

ASK

- Who said Jesus was coming into the world?
John the Baptist.
- What was John the Baptist a witness about?
The Light—the eternal Light who shows us the Father and gives life.
- What was John saying about the light?
Even though the Light was always living and shining, He was now about to come into the world in a special way.

DISCUSS

- What are some other lights that show a little of God's goodness (Gen 1:16; Exod 35:14; Prov 15:30; 16:15)? How is Jesus much greater than all of these?
- What are some ways you can "testify" about the light this Christmas season?

DAY 2

He was in the world, but the world did not know Him • John 1:10–11

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:10–11

The world should have been thrilled to receive Jesus! Not only was He their true light, but He was also their maker. He had personally created the universe and all the people in it, and He was the One breathing life into all creation (John 1:3–4). The world owed its life to Him, but the world didn't even recognize Him. Something is wrong with the world! At first, the world was perfect (Gen 1:31). But ever since Adam and Eve chose to worship themselves instead of God (3:1–6), the world has become rebellious, ignorant, dark, and blind to the light of God (Rom 1:21). So the world didn't even recognize its Owner. The world was dark, but surely Israel would receive Him! Hadn't God chosen Israel as His special people? Hadn't He given them the light of His word (Rom 3:2; 9:4; Ps 119:105)? Although Israel enjoyed a special relationship with God (Exod 19:4–6), they violated the covenant and rejected their God (Isa 65:2–5). So it is not surprising that they also refused to receive their Light, their Creator, and their Owner.

ASK

1. Why is it so strange that the world did not recognize Him?
Because He was the One who created the world.
2. Did His own people receive Him?
No, they did not.
3. Why is this surprising?
God had given Israel the light of His word, and Israel enjoyed a special relationship with God.

DISCUSS

1. How would you feel if your family or close friends did not recognize you? How much worse when the world failed to recognize Jesus?
2. Is there anything in your life that is preventing you from seeing Jesus for all that He is?

DAY 3

He came to create life • John 1:12–13

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:12–13

Some people do believe in Jesus. They believe in His **name**, accepting and trusting Him for *all that He has revealed Himself to be*. That is a good choice, because the One who has authority over all the world also has authority to give them the greatest gift. He gives them the **right** and **privilege** to enter into God's own family and to enjoy the closest possible relationship with Him. But how can people, who are so sinful,

become children of God, who is so Holy? Only by being completely changed from the inside out, by being "born again" (John 3:3). Physical birth is not enough. The Jews thought they were already children of God because they were descendants of Abraham (8:33; Gen 12:3). But no one can be saved just by being part of a certain family or community (John 8:41–47), for salvation is not something humans make happen by their own ability or desire. Fortunately, the One who created all life in the beginning is able to create new, spiritual, eternal life. After all, He is life in Himself (1:4a). To receive Him is to receive never-ending life.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What is another word for believing in Jesus?
Receiving Jesus. Wanting Him to come and be the boss of your life.
2. What does it mean to believe in Jesus' "name"?
To accept and trust Him for all that He has revealed Himself to be.
3. If your parents are Christians, does that automatically make you a child of God?
No. Children of God are not born by human desire or ability, but are born of God.
4. What does being "born again" mean?
To be completely changed from the inside out.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you believe in Jesus? Consider if you have done the following: humbly received Him, wanted Him, yielded to Him, given allegiance to Him, relied upon Him, let Him come in, and let Him have His way with your life?
2. Why is there really no such thing as a "second generation Christian"?

DAY 4*He became a human to show humans God's glory • John 1:14***READ** 

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 1:14**

The **Word**, the One who is eternal, always alive, always with God, is God, created the world, has life in Himself, and shines with unstoppable light, became **flesh**. He became actually and fully human. But why? Because He is the Word, and words communicate. That's why the true Word became a human: to let humans see and know God personally (Heb 1:1–2). Long ago, God lived with Israel in the tabernacle, and Israel saw the shining cloud of His glory (Exod 25:8; 40:34). But back then, God only spoke directly to Moses, and He wrote His word on stone (Exod 33:11; 34:28). It was amazing, but it was small compared to the Word becoming human. Never before had God lived with mankind in such a close and personal way. Never before had He made His glory so visible. The Word's glory was the glory of the **"only Son,"** the one-of-a-kind person who is exactly like the Father. So His glory is the same **glory** that God showed Moses, His goodness that abounds in "steadfast love and faithfulness" (Exod 33:18–19; 34:6). This is exactly the same as the Son's glory full of "grace and truth."

ASK 

1. Did Jesus become a human?
Yes
2. Why did Jesus become a human?
He became a human so that God could be with humans and humans could be with God.
3. How did God dwell with Israel in the past?
In the tabernacle.
4. How is Jesus' glory just like the Father's glory?
Their glory is full of grace (steadfast love) and truth (faithfulness).

DISCUSS 

1. Did Jesus become less than God when He became a human (John 10:30–33)?
2. Do you pursue a personal relationship with Jesus, or do you only know facts about Him?

DAY 5

His glory is exactly the same as God's glory • John 1:15–18

READ

John 1:6–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 1:15–18

The Son is more glorious than anyone else. He is greater than John the Baptist. Even though John was older and began his ministry first, the Son was actually first, both in time and in rank. The Son is also greater than Moses. From the Son comes “grace upon grace,” or more literally, one grace “in the place of” another grace. Long ago God gave the grace of the law through Moses (1:17a). But Jesus brings greater grace (Eph 1:5–8; 2:7), since He alone lets us know God’s full glory. So we end where this gospel began (John 1:1, 18). First, the Word who communicates God to the world is the Son who shows us exactly what the Father is like. Second, the Word who was with God and was God is the Son who is God and is with God. The Son is close to the Father, loves the Father, does the Father’s work, and lives for the Father’s glory. Yet at the same time, the Son Himself is God in His *nature*, at the core of who He is. This precious Son is the true gift of Christmas.

ASK

1. How is Jesus greater than John the Baptist?
Even though John was older and began his ministry first, the Son was actually first, both in time and in rank.
2. How is Jesus greater than Moses?
Jesus brings greater grace. He alone lets us know God’s full glory.
3. Why do we need the Son to show us the Father?
Because no one can see the Father for all of who He is.
4. What is the true gift of Christmas?
God’s precious Son, Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. How could Jesus be born after John but still be before him? How was John the Baptist a humble witness?
2. How can you follow Jesus’ example in your relationship with your father?