

A Child is Born

Lesson 1

THE WORD

Genesis 1 / John 1

In the beginning was "the Word"

Setup:

Beginnings...

Speaker shares a story of a personal beginning.

Shares a story of an ending.

Give students a chance to share with a friend next to them a story of a

beginning or ending.

How many of you heard something sad or hard? How many of you heard something happy?

Challenge students to think about beginnings they've experienced, even in this year.

Beginning JH. Maybe it's been great, maybe it's not been great, but it will have an end and then there will be another beginning. High School.

Most things in life have beginnings and endings.

Over the rest of our year together in small group, we are going to study and learn about Jesus together looking deeper at the gospels. Those are the books: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The first 4 books of the Old testament, as we take this journey together, we will also see that those aren't the only books of the Bible that talk about Jesus. He's everywhere in the Word!

(Rhetorical questions before dismissal)

Have you ever thought about where Jesus really began? Was it His birth on this earth?

Was He present when the whole world began?

Tonight, you're going to dive into this a little more and look at Jesus in His beginning. He played important role and you might be surprised by what that was.

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THE WORD

Genesis 1 / John 1

In the beginning was "the Word"

Parent Que: This week your student took a deeper look at Jesus being present as the Word in the very beginning with God! Also, we looked at Jesus being the Light of the World, a Light that can shine through us to others. Your student was challenged to think about how they can live this truth out in their everyday world, living as people who bring others into the LIGHT OF God's LOVE! Ask them how it's going this week.

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 1:1-4

John 1:1-5

Ephesians 5:8

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THE WORD

Genesis 1 / John 1

In the beginning was “the Word”

This week you will have an opportunity to connect the dots for your students, linking the Old Testament to the New Testament. They will begin to see *Jesus, the Word*, within the very *first words* in Scripture.

Have you ever thought about where Jesus was when the world began?

➤ **Read Genesis 1:1a / John 1:1-2**

Genesis – “In the beginning...” (Genesis 1:1a)

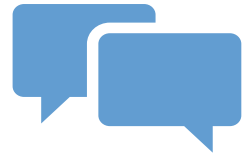
John – “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2)

➤ **Discuss**

Both of these verses reference “the beginning” and it’s the same beginning. What is “the beginning” being referenced?

In John, he mentions “the Word” what (or who) is he talking about?

If you replace the phrase “the Word” with “Jesus”, what do we learn about Him from the verses in John? *Jesus existed before the beginning, He was with God and Jesus was God. They both existed before the beginning, together.*



➤ **Read Revelation 1:8 (Assign to one student)**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Have you ever thought about God having no literal “beginning”? How does that make you feel? Help students become comfortable with the idea that God is not constrained or bound by time as we are.

➤ **Discuss**

What does this verse have to say about God and His existence?

➤ **Read Genesis 1:1b/John 1:3**

Genesis – “ . . . God created the heavens and the earth,” (1:1b)

John – “God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.” (1:3)

What was created and who created it?

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➤ **Read Genesis 1:3-4 / John 1:4-5**

Genesis – “Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” (1:3-4)

John – “The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (1:4-5).

What was the first thing that God speaks into existence?

What can be learned about “the Word” and His role in creation from the verses in John? *He (Jesus) gave life to everything that was created and brought life to everyone.*

In what ways does our world need the “light” of Jesus?

The Point

Jesus is the Light of the World.

Jesus is THE WORD, that was with God from the very beginning.

APPLICATION **Read Ephesians 5:8**

Ephesians 5:8 “For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord, so live as people of the light.”

What does it mean to live as “people of the light”?

Why should we live that way?

How do we live this way: at school? At home?

What can you do differently this week to live in the Light of His Word?

➤ **Catch-Up/Journal/Pray**

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Lesson 2

Son of Man

Matthew 1:1-17

Descendant of David and genealogy

Setup:

Speaker shares about their own ancestry. Descendants who have been before them, maybe traits of people in their family line, both character and physical.

Discuss those family members that you don't see how they fit. The Aunt with the beard...etc. But honestly, even though you may not know a lot about where you came from, it is likely that your family line connects you with many ordinary people as well as some extraordinary people.

Did you know we have the family line of Jesus? We talked last week about how Jesus as God, had no beginning, but Jesus in the flesh, His human form did have a beginning. It was planned and it was purposed. It was a family line that can be traced all through scripture, and tonight we are going to journey a bit deeper into that family line and look at Jesus as the Son of Man.

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Lesson 2

Son of Man

Matthew 1:1-17

Descendant of David and genealogy

Parent Que: This week your student took a look at the family line of Jesus that marked Him as the Son of Man. Because of the great plan of God, by Jesus we are a part of this family line, being adopted as God's children. This is an awesome thought beyond our ability to fully understand. The God of the universe has chosen to completely love us as His children. Your student was asked if they life as chosen members of this ultimate royal family. For this generation it can be even more difficult to find their identity in the one who chose them for no other reason than love. It's not who they are, what they've done or haven't done, what their snapchat or insta story says...He just loved and wanted them! Maybe you take this opportunity to get mushy with your student and tell them that your love for them is UNCHANGING, and then take it a step further to remind them that God's love is even greater!

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 1:1-17

1 Peter 2:9

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Lesson 2

Son of Man

Matthew 1:1-17

Descendant of David and genealogy

Guide your students this week to see how Jesus descended from a long family line. Lead them to understand that Jesus taking on flesh was both planned and promised. Also, point out how God used ordinary people to bring forth His One and Only Son.

➤ **Read** Matthew 1:1-17

Which name do you think is the hardest to pronounce?

As we read through the family line of Jesus what are some names you recognized?

➤ **Discuss**

The Bible tells detailed stories of many of Jesus' ancestors. There's a point to *all* these people. They are *all* connected in a really important family line. It will be exciting to see a connection to Jesus once again, early in the Old Testament.



➤ **Abraham**

You've heard the song right? (Father Abraham) It all starts here. You see God is a "choosing" God. His plan to rescue was mapped out, and He would bring Jesus to the earth by way of a rescue mission. The agent of ransom and rescue would be His only Son, Jesus.

The promise of descendants:

➤ **Read** Genesis 17:4-6

God is a "Naming" God. What does He change Abram's name to?

Have you ever thought about God knowing YOUR name?

Isaiah 43:1, 45:1, 49:3, Psalm 139:1-18, John 10:3

Not only is God a naming God, but a promise making/keeping God. What does God promise to Abram in Genesis 17?

➤ **Discuss**

Find the 5 woman named in the genealogy of Jesus. Who are they and what do you know about them?

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All of these women had different stories, but each of them were marked by disgrace in some way. What a great reminder that God's choosing, naming love is not limited to those who are righteous and good.

This family line runs us all the way through the Old Testament, and carries us up to this magnificent and miraculous moment; the birth of the Promised King.



This family line of Jesus shows Him as the Son of Man.
Knowing Jesus, makes you a part of this family line, making you children of God.

➤ **APPLICATION** Read 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

Do you live as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, one possessed as God's child? Why or why not?

What part of this verse ties in with what we discussed last week?

➤ Catch-Up/Journal/Pray

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Lesson 3

Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-33

God With Us

Setup:

Share a short personal story of separation...or desire to be "with" someone.

Have you ever been apart or separated from a good friend, or a family member for a long time, and

you just couldn't wait to be reunited with them? You counted down the days, weeks, or months to be with them again.

Maybe it was that first time you went to camp and you were super homesick. You could have had a friend that moved away, or took a long trip. It could be that pet that you love being with so much! Not only are you excited to be with them, but they are excited to be with you!

It feels good when you've anticipated being WITH someone and they share in that excitement in return, to be WITH you!

Tonight we are going to talk about how God created us relationally, to be with others, and ultimately to be with Him. There was a separation that happened on the earth that put a gap there, and gave a great gift of love to bridge that gap, and that is His Son, our Immanuel, Jesus.

Being WITH someone can be one sided. Have you ever sat WITH a friend, or a parent, and you are sure that if you left the room they wouldn't even notice? You can be WITH someone, but they may not truly be WITH you.

God is WITH us. Over the next hour we are going to think on that some more together.

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Lesson 3

Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-33

God With Us

Parent Que: We tackled a relevant topic in the lives of many JH students this week. Fear. It seems we are living in a society that is plagued by anxiety. God's presence is often a helpful resource in battling fear and anxiety that is often neglected. Guiding your students to the One who is with them is a skill that will hold value throughout their entire life. The discussion this week focused on Jesus as "Immanuel", which means God with us. Students were encouraged to think about things that cause stress and anxiety and how they could apply this truth. They were asked to create literal, tangible truth weapons, by writing down verses that could be recalled when needed. Check in with your student by asking what causes them anxiety and stress. Pray with them and continue to provide opportunities for them to give voice to their fears.

Key Scriptures:

[Matthew 1:18-23](#)

[Luke 1:26-33](#)

[John 14:25-27](#)

[Isaiah 41:10](#)

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Lesson 3

Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-33

God With Us

Okay friends, this week is a story that is **so** awesome, yet **so** overtold, that we sometimes miss the wonder of it. This gift of God to US! Yes, Immanuel, God, in the flesh, coming to live WITH us! It's a true demonstration of **His relational heart!**

Who is your favorite person to be with? What do you like to do with them?

Are you ever "with" someone, but you feel as though they are not "with" you?

➤ **Read** Matthew 1:18-23

You might be surprised to know that way before the physical birth of Jesus, many things had already been told about this **One** who would be coming to live WITH us, and set us free from the bondage of sin.

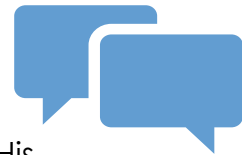
➤ **Read** Isaiah 7:13-14

First of all, who is Isaiah talking to in verse 13? *You should understand who this family line is after our study last week.*

Second, what sign does he prophecy is coming?

➤ **Discuss**

God with us...Where had God been? It's not necessarily that God had "been" anywhere, but He had been separated from His creation in a way that caused a deep and desperate desire to be WITH them again. So much so, that He built an awesome bridge of redemption through the cross of Jesus.



➤ **Read** John 14:25-27

What scares you or makes you feel afraid?

Jesus tells us to not have "troubled" or afraid hearts, why?

What gift of peace and person of God remains "with us"?

The Point

God chose to be with us, so gave us Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

No matter what you go through they are with you.

A lot of times our fear presses in, because we forget WHO is WITH us! Recalling this truth can help us overcome fear and gain strength and peace in the midst of anxiety.

➤ **Read** Isaiah 41:10

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Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

- APPLICATION **Read** through any or all of the verses below, and allow students to highlight or write down a favorite. *(Maybe you could write them out ahead of time, or assign one to each student)*

Deuteronomy 31:6

Joshua 1:9

Psalms 23:4

Psalms 91:1-16

Psalms 118:6-7

Zephaniah 3:17

1 Peter 5:6-7

- [Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)