

## THE WORD BECAME FLESH

New Testament Lesson #232

The Apostle John is the author of the fourth Gospel. It is a wonderful account of the life of Jesus and all that he said and taught.

John starts his Gospel similar to Matthew by going all the way back to the beginning to the time of creation. Before God started the creation process, He had a plan for what He was going to do. John starts by saying: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

The Apostle John also introduces the readers to John the Baptist. This John had an important role. He was to go before Jesus and be a witness to point everyone to Jesus. It says about him, "There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light" (John 1:6-8).

Jesus was the light that was come into the world. The Apostle John writes about him, "the true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world" (John 1:9). John the Baptist was telling people that Jesus was coming, but unfortunately, many did not want to hear or receive Jesus. The Apostle John tells us this when he writes, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11).

This was so sad, because it was through Jesus that men and women could be saved. John writes, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13). So, it was important for people to learn who Jesus was so they might receive him as the Messiah, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)!

The Apostle John finally introduces us to Jesus when he writes in verse 14 how God's plan for His Son became visible when Jesus was born. Specifically, John writes, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

John the Baptist indicates that Jesus is the one who was greater and coming after him that the people needed to receive. From Jesus everyone received "one blessing after another" (John 1:16). The law may have been given through Moses, but Jesus was greater. It was

through Jesus that grace and truth were received. In fact, it is only through Jesus that people could truly come to know God. As John writes, "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (John 1:18).

### POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Light represents those associated with God. Darkness is associated with evil and those that oppose God. John writes: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God" (John 3:19-21).
- In John 1:4-5, it says about Jesus, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." This light was Jesus. Later John records Jesus teaching this very point. "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12).
- In John 1:12 we saw how it says, "Yet to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Jesus teaches this point specifically when he says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). It was only through Jesus that someone could come to know God and be part of His family as His sons and daughters.

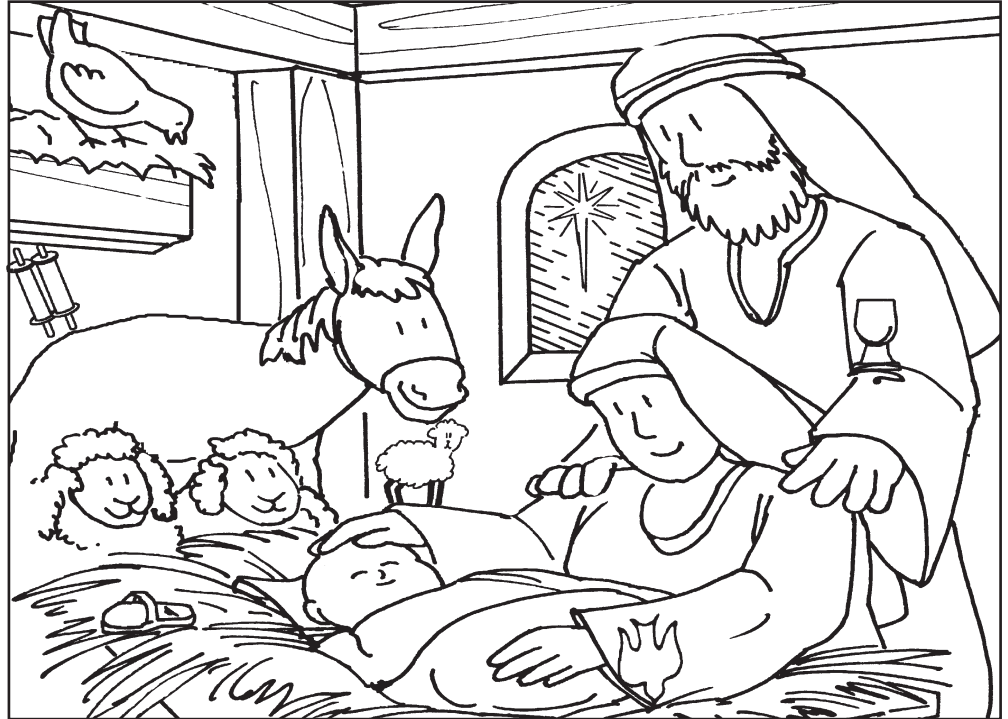
### ANSWER KEY:

The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory.



**T**o all who received Jesus and believed in His name,  
He gave the right to become children of God.

Find the hidden objects  
in the picture.



God made Jesus a light for all.

Use the code to fill in  
the missing letters.

= L    = S    = E    = T    = H

J \_ \_ \_ U \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_

\_ R U \_ \_ I G \_ \_ .

Name \_\_\_\_\_