

July 03, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Looking at Jesus shows us God's character

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear God, thank You for making a way for us to know You. Help us to grow closer to You by looking at Jesus

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

(Heb 1:3 NKJV)

From "Our Daily Bread", July 1, 2018)

**Series: Partners in a
New Creation**

**UNIT 2: The Word: The
Agent of Creation**

NEXT WEEK

**The Word Heals
(John 4:46-54)**

The Word Becomes Flesh John 1:1-14

Lesson Background and Introduction

The introduction to John's Gospel draws the reader's attention in referring to the eternity of the Word of God. Specifically, John's use of the underlying Greek word for "Word"—logos, from which we get our English word logic—reflects the ways philosophers tried to make sense of the world. John applies the concept of the Word to the eternal God of Israel. This God is the one through whom all creation came into being. This God has revealed himself specifically to his creation. So much of the work of ministering and leading a church requires in-person work. Meeting church members for fellowship, praying for them in the hospital, visiting families with newborns. These and other occurrences are commonplace in ministry and require physical presence. The central theme of the Christian faith required a similar kind of physical, embodied presence. God extended his love and grace to humanity in an extraordinary way—the Word of God became flesh and dwelt within his creation. This act, beyond human comprehension, was an extraordinary gift of God's embodied presence. In response, people can accept his gift with humility, gratitude, and faith. As a result of this gift, there is a change of identity to becoming the children of God. God's children are tasked with extending his love to others. In an increasingly "disembodied" human experience—demonstrated by the frequent use of smartphones and social media—God's children can intentionally chose to love others by their physical presence.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Word - When John penned his Gospel, he did not begin with Jesus in the manger. No, he started before time began. John introduced his Gospel message by identifying Jesus as the "Word." He declared that Jesus was with God at the very onset of time. When the Jewish people read this reference to Jesus, they knew exactly what John implied. The "Word" (logos) meant God Himself.

Life - The Scriptures specifically identify Jesus as the source of life. John explained the meaning of life in two ways. First, physically, Jesus keeps everything in the world breathing and existing. Second, Jesus is the foundation of all spirituality. When an individual opens his or her heart to Jesus, trusting Him, and understanding His sacrifice on Calvary, that person is given a new life as the foundation of their salvation. Jesus becomes their light, living inside their heart through the person of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Is the True Light - When love, goodness, or any other positive things happen in the world, we remember Jesus is the wellspring of all good and perfect gifts. Sadly, humanity is fallen, sinful, and rejects the Creator. But for those who say they believe in God's message, the Gospel, and His messenger, Jesus Christ, these are the ones the Father gives the right to bear His name. Human beings are born once of an earthly mother. But God offers a second birth, a spiritual birth. For the Christian, the Lord becomes Father, and He nurtures His children to behave like the Son. This transaction is spiritual. Man cannot work hard enough to get into God's family, nor do enough good deeds. Only by accepting Jesus as Savior can a man enter the kingdom of God. God put flesh on His creative Word, and the Word pitched a tent and lived right alongside humanity, just like the tabernacle traveled with the Hebrew children in the middle of their camp. The Lord's presence in the tabernacle was their floodlight directing them to the Promised Land. John paints the same picture of Jesus. He illuminated God's truth for us. He is now the floodlight for Christians to make it to their heavenly home.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Eternal Word (John 1:1-5)

Word's possession of Deity (1-2)

- Jesus was God in all the fullness of the Deity in bodily form (Col 2:9)
- Jesus is the very nature of God, yet took on human likeness (Phil 2:5-7)
- Jesus is the Word of God (Rev 19:13)
- God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus (Col 1:15-19)

Jesus is the Creative Word (3)

- God created all things by speaking them into existence (Ps 33:6)
- Jesus created and sustains all things through the powerful Word (Heb 1:2-3)
- Everything created was created through and by the Word, Jesus Christ (John 1:1-4)
- Jesus not only created everything, but He holds them together (Col 1:16-18)

Jesus is the Word, the giver of life (4-5)

- God gave Jesus the right to grant life (John 5:26)
- Jesus is the path to eternal life (John 14:6)
- Jesus, the last Adam, provides a life-giving spirit (1 Cor 15:45)
- Jesus is the water of life (Rev 22:1)

The Presented Word (John 1:6-14)

The Presented Word through the sending of John (6)

- God had Isaiah to prophecy about John (Isa 40:3)
- God Himself prophesied about John (Mal 3:1)
- When John did come, he spoke of the coming of Jesus (Luke 3:15-16)

The Presented Word through Repentance (7)

- Part of the preparation for Jesus was John's presenting repentance to the people (Acts 13:24)
- God prepared John, during his time in the desert, to preach about repentance (Matt 3:1-2)
- John baptized for repentance (Acts 19:3-4)

The Presented Word through Testimony (7-8)

- John told of how salvation would come through Jesus (Acts 13:24-26)
- Jesus called John's testimony valid (John 5:32-34)
- God's preparation and promises are always on time and faithful (2 Pet 3:9)

The Presented Word through the recognition that Jesus is the light (9-10)

- Jesus is the light of salvation (Ps 27:1)
- Jesus has the light dwelling in Him (Dan 2:22)
- Jesus is the light of the world (John 12:46)
- Jesus will eternally be the light of the new Heaven and Earth (Rev 21:23)

The Presented Word that Jesus is the path to being a child of God (11-13)

- Child of God through faith in Jesus (Gal 3:26)
- Child of God through the redemption by Jesus (Gal 4:4-5)
- Child of God through predestination by God through Jesus (Eph 1:5)

The Presented Word through being the glory of God (14)

- At the transfiguration Jesus physically showed His glory (Matt 17:2)
- Jesus' first sign revealed His glory (John 2:11)
- Isaiah spoke of Jesus' glory through prophecy (John 12:40-41)
- God gave us His glory through Jesus (2 Cor 4:6)