

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE SOURCE — I AM A LIGHT

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12; 9:5; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 1:3

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:3-5

“All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is the one true Savior.
- We exist to point others to Jesus, not to ourselves.
- The darkness cannot and will not overcome the light.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 1:1-14

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Our sin leads to darkness, but Jesus is light.
- Christians are set apart to shine the light of the gospel in the world.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that they exist to point to Jesus alone.
- An urgency to make God known to the dying world around them.



Every student should strive to...

- Spend time each day learning more about who God is through His Word.
- Live a life that reflects God to the world.
- Share the gospel with at least one person who does not know Jesus.



Every student should want...

- To pursue holiness that points people away from themselves and towards Jesus.
- To reflect the Father by living sacrificially.
- To make known the love of God.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:3-5

“All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

God created all things through Jesus Christ.

“All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

- The Gospel of John begins by speaking of Jesus' divinity. God created everything through Jesus. This means that Jesus has always existed and was not only present at Creation, but was actively involved in creation, and that all things exist for Him.
- It is important to know that Jesus has always existed because it speaks to His divine nature. He is not a created being. He is not someone God created after man sinned. Jesus is fully God and one part of the Trinity, or three persons of God.

All life comes from God through Jesus.

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

- Not only were all things created through Jesus, but all life is from Him. He is life and everything that exists does so because of Him. All life was made through Him and exists because of His power. We are born and continue to live on the earth because of Jesus.
- Not only do we have earthly life from Jesus, but we also can have spiritual life because of Him. We are all born sinful which means we are all spiritually dead. Through Jesus, we can have spiritual life that is everlasting and eternal.

Jesus Christ lights the way to true life.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

- The Gospel of John begins with the truth that Jesus is the light of the world. Because all life is found in Jesus, and all truth comes from Him, He is the light that shines in this world darkened by man's sin. Jesus is perfect in every way and there is no darkness in Him. Because He is light, He shows the way to reconciliation with God.
- Jesus is the way to true life. True life is spiritual life that is possible because our sins are forgiven through the work of Christ on the cross. Jesus came to the earth to live the life we could not and He paid our sin debt on the cross. He is the light of truth that leads us to salvation and gives us true eternal life.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS THE ONE TRUE SAVIOR.¹**[THIS]**

There is only one Savior of the world and that is Jesus. Man's sin required a perfect sacrifice and Jesus was the only person who could be that sacrifice. The apostle John opens his gospel speaking about Jesus' divinity. John focuses his book on the divinity of Jesus to show that He is the Savior of the world. Jesus is fully God. He is not a created being. He has always existed as God. He is one of the three persons of God that make up the Trinity. He is the beginning of all things because all things were created through Him and for Him. All life comes through Jesus. We exist because we were created through Him and He continues to sustain our earthly lives. Jesus took on human flesh when He was born of Mary. He lived on the earth as fully human and fully God. He did this so that He would be the perfect sacrifice for man's sin debt.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important that Jesus is fully God and fully man?

In Philippians 2:6-7, Paul speaks of Jesus' divinity and His human nature. Jesus is fully God, yet He took on human flesh and lived a human life on earth so He could be like us. Hebrews 4:15 also speaks to the two natures of Jesus. Jesus is God, yet when He took on human form, He faced the same things we face as humans, but He did so without sinning. Because Jesus is God, He is sinless and a sinless sacrifice was necessary to pay our sin debt.

[THIS]

In John 1:3-5, John writes that Jesus is the light of the world. Life is found in Him. In the beginning, God ordained that His Son, Jesus would be the Savior of the world. God's plan for the salvation of man was that His Son would take on human flesh and live the perfect life that no person could ever live. Jesus died on the cross, taking on the sin of the world. Now, there is forgiveness available to anyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior. There is no other Savior except for Jesus. Only Jesus has the power to save people from their sin. Only He has the authority and power to forgive us of our sin. Spiritual life is possible only through a faith in Jesus as Savior.

[THEREFORE]

Do you feel or believe you need a savior? Why or why not?

What are some things you seek salvation from?

1 Corinthians 2:14 teaches us that in our natural sinful state, we don't think we need God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 also shows us that the cross and salvation seem foolish to us when we don't believe we need Jesus as our Savior. Often, when we do not believe we need a Savior, we seek salvation in our own personal goodness, or what we think is goodness. We may look to earthly things, like money or success to create a sense of goodness in us. Regardless, all other things fail to save us eternally.

How can you tell others that Jesus is the true Savior this week?

In 1 John 4:14, John teaches that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world. As we seek to share this truth with others, understanding the Gospel ourselves is important. We can share with others that it is God's plan that Jesus be the Savior and it is only through Him that man is saved. Acts 4:12 also tells us that salvation is found in no one else, but Christ. He alone is the Savior. By sharing our own realization of this truth and our trust in God's Word, we can share the truth with those who are not believers.

1. John 1:5: Jesus is the light of the world. It is through Him that men are saved from their sins.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

BIG IDEA #2: WE EXIST TO POINT OTHERS TO JESUS, NOT TO OURSELVES.²**[THIS]**

In John 1:6, we are introduced to John the Baptist. As John unfolds the story of Jesus, he tells the story of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. He lived before Jesus and told the people around him that the Messiah was coming. John the Baptist lived a simple life that pointed people to Jesus. His purpose was to prepare people for the coming of Jesus as their Savior. He told others that the Messiah was coming, and that salvation was found in Him alone and nothing else. John the Baptist anticipated and looked for the coming Messiah. He taught those he ministered to that Jesus was the light of the world and man could have forgiveness only through Him. John the Baptist's life was an example of what every believer's life should be.

[THEREFORE]**What do you learn from John the Baptist's example of pointing people to Jesus?**

In Mark 16:15-16, God's people are commanded to go into all of the world telling people about Jesus the Savior. John the Baptist lived his life fulfilling this command even before it was given to God's people by Jesus. Those who have been redeemed are set apart to share the truth of Christ with others. 2 Timothy 4:2 shows us that believers are to tell others about Jesus and that they need to be prepared for any and every occasion to share the truth.

[THIS]

Knowing that God's people exist to tell others about Jesus, we must live our lives in a way that they point people to the light of the world and not away from Him. When a person repents and has saving faith in Jesus, they receive new life. This new spiritual life is possible because of the Holy Spirit living inside of them. Because believers have the Holy Spirit, they have the light of Christ in them. By living faithfully and obediently to Christ, they share the light of Christ with others. It is not enough to live good lives. God's people must be like John the Baptist in sharing the gospel clearly with those in the world who are not followers of Christ. Our lives must be lived pointing to Christ and not pointing to ourselves. What matters most in our lives is that we are faithfully on mission to share with others who Christ is and how they can know Him personally.

[THEREFORE]**What distractions cause you to focus on yourself instead of striving to point others to Christ?**

Often, we are distracted with the cares of the world, with things that catch our attention, and with our fleshly desires that tempt us. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus teaches that His people are to seek His kingdom first. We must discipline ourselves to focus our minds and hearts on furthering God's kingdom and not our earthly lives.

What are some attitudes, behaviors, or words that point people to you instead of pointing them to Christ?

In Galatians 5:16-17, Paul writes that God's people are to walk by His Spirit so they will not satisfy their fleshly desires. When we are not walking by the Spirit, we are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit. When we are prideful, impatient, selfish, angry, spiteful, or even apathetic, we are pointing people to ourselves and away from Christ. When we wallow in a low view of ourselves, we also point people to ourselves instead of Jesus.

2. John 1:6-7: John the Baptist existed to point people to the coming of Jesus. Believers exist to point people to Jesus as the Savior.

BIG IDEA #3: THE DARKNESS CANNOT AND WILL NOT OVERCOME THE LIGHT.³**[THIS]**

In John 1, the Apostle John shows us that Jesus is God in the flesh and He is the light of the world. This means that Jesus is the only way for the world to see the truth of God. Jesus' arrival on the earth was the coming of God's truth into the world. Darkness is present in the earth because of man's sin. Many false saviors have risen up and continue to rise up claiming to have the truth, but only Jesus is the true light of the world.

[THEREFORE]**What are some of the false lights in the world?**

In 2 Peter 2:1, Peter speaks of the false prophets that teach something contrary to God's truth. There are things and people who appear to offer a way of living life, but they are false and they lead to death and eternal separation from God. The only true truth comes from God and is found through a saving faith in Jesus. Matthew 24:24 tells us that there will be people who say they know a way to have eternal life, but they will be false lights in this dark world.

What does it look like for you to shine as a light for Jesus?

Matthew 6:1-4 is a great example of what it looks like for the light of Jesus to shine in this world through His people. When God's people serve in a way that points people to Jesus and not to themselves, His light shines brightly through them. When we serve the poor with the purpose of showing them who Jesus is, God is glorified. When we help one another for the sake of showing people Christ, His light shines brightly and people are pointed to God the Father.

[THIS]

John 1:5 says that the light of the world shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus is the true light of the world, and His light shines on in this dark world. Jesus' light shines in His people as they live for Him and point others to Him. The darkness of sin in this world cannot overcome the light of Christ. When Jesus died on the cross, He defeated sin and death, because He is God and there is nothing that is more powerful than the one true God. Even when it seems that sin and darkness reign in this life, God's people live in the truth that Jesus is the light and nothing can overcome it.

[THEREFORE]**Knowing the light of Christ can never be overcome, how can you live boldly for Him this week?**

In Acts 4:29, we see God's people striving to be bold even when they are facing persecution. As God's people seek to live for Him in this dark world, they will face persecution, but because they know that darkness will not triumph, they can live boldly for Him. Proverbs 28:1 and Hebrews 13:6 speak to the confidence that God's people can have in this dark world. God's people do not have to fear the darkness because Christ has defeated it. When Christ returns, the darkness will be no more, but until then, His people can boldly share His truth.

3. John 1:5: Jesus is the light of the world and the darkness has not and will not overcome it.