



## Jesus is the Light (1:4-13)

### John 1:1-18 (ESV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of *the only Son from the Father*, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through *Jesus Christ*. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

### Key Words

**"Life"** (v.4)—(*zoe*) spiritual life (as opposed to physical life)

**"Light"**— truth & holiness

**"Darkness"**—falsehood & sin

**"world"**— (*kosmos*) 1. Physical world; 2. Humanity; 3. The evil system dominated by Satan.

**"receive"**(v.11)— take hold of, obtain, grasp

**"blood"** (v. 13)— race or ethnic heritage

**"flesh"** (v. 13)— personal desire

**"will of man"** (v.13)— man-made system

### Related Passages

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 17:3—"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 11:25-26—"25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:6—"6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Psalms 36:9—"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light."

John 8:12—"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1 John 2:8—"At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because[a] the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

John 3:19-21—"19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

## Discussion Questions

1. What does light do? Could you function without light?

\*2. Look at verse 4. What kind of “life” is this verse referring to? (I) (See John 3:16 & 17:3) What does “in him was life” mean? (I) Does God rely on anyone or anything else for life? (See John 11:25-26) Read John 14:6. Is there any other source of spiritual life? (I) How does this truth affect our daily life? (A)

\*3. In Jesus is life—He is self-existent and the source of spiritual life—and this life “was the light of men” (v. 5). Read through the verses again and circle the word “light”. Metaphorically, what does light represent? (O) Read Psalm 36:9 & John 8:12. What is the connection between Jesus being the life and the light? (I) What foundational Christian practices does this result in? (A)

4. In what setting does light, even that from the smallest candle, shine the brightest? If “light” represents truth and holiness, what does “darkness” represent? (O) In your own words, interpret the phrase: “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it”? (I) (See also 1 John 2:8)

5. In verse 9, what two things did the Light do? How can we take this verse to be Jesus’ mission statement?

6. How does Jesus give “light to everyone”? (I) What does/doesn’t that mean? (I) Does “everyone” take advantage of this light? (A)

\*7. Looking at verse 9-11, why do you think the “world did not know him” and “his own people did not receive him”? (I) Read John 3:19-21. What hinders people from knowing and receiving the light? (O/A) Have you experienced a time where you “loved the darkness rather than the light”? (A) What changed?

8. According to verse 12, how are people given the right to become “children of God”? (O) What does that look like practically in a person’s life? (A)

\*9. Looking at verse 13, what does it mean that those who received Him and believed in His name were “born”? (I) By whose power were they “born”? (O) What three things cannot bring about spiritual birth? (O) Why? (I)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

10. Keeping in mind John’s purpose: “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31), how do the verses that you just studied (1-3 & 14-18) impact your understanding of who Jesus Christ is and what He did? (A)

## The Testimony of John the Baptist

### John 1:19-37 (ESV)—

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son-of-God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

### Related Passages

John 1:6-9—<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.”

Mark 1:1-8—“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Isaiah 40:3—“A voice cries:[a]“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

### Study Questions

1. How did John the Baptist respond to the Jewish leader's question “Who are you”? (vs. 19-23). Read John 1:6-8, Mark 1:1-8, and Isaiah 40:3. From reading these verses, who do you understand John to be? (A)
2. According to v. 34, did John fulfill his mission? (O) How? (I)
3. What is the effect of John's declaration “Behold the Lamb of God!” on his two disciples? (O)