The Gospel of John

Before children can learn how to follow Jesus, they need to know who He really is. This kid's daily devotional is designed to help families discover Jesus together through the Gospel of John in a way that is clear, engaging, and age-appropriate.

Across five weeks, children and the adults who guide them will walk through the opening chapters of John's Gospel, seeing Jesus not only as a kind teacher or good example, but as God's Son who came near to us. Through simple storytelling, Scripture, and conversation, children will hear John the Baptist call Jesus "the Lamb of God," watch water turn into wine at a wedding, learn what Jesus means when He says "I AM," and see how He brings light to someone who was born blind. Each devotion helps answer one big question in a way kids can understand: "Who is Jesus?"

These devotionals are written to be read together, helping parents, grandparents, and caregivers guide children through God's Word with confidence. Each day invites adults to read aloud, ask thoughtful questions, and pray with their children, creating space for curiosity, wonder, and growing faith.

In a world full of noise and distractions, this devotional helps families slow down and fix their eyes on Jesus—the Light who shines in the darkness, the One who loves us, forgives us, and invites us to belong to Him. As families read and pray together, children will be encouraged to see Jesus clearly and begin learning what it means to trust and follow Him.

Thank you Kerry Bauer, Sarah Cutler, Sarah Elliot, and Erika Rehbein for your time and effort in contributing to these kids daily devotionals.

Week 1 //Day 1

John 1:1–3

Paraphrased Passage: *"Before anything was made, Jesus was already there. Jesus has always been with God, and Jesus is God. From the very beginning, everything was made through Him. Nothing in the whole world was made without Jesus."*

John was one of Jesus' disciples. He wrote this book to talk about all the things that Jesus did. But like any good book, John knew he had to start at the very beginning. Even though the Book of John is towards the end of the Bible, he talks about stuff that happens in Genesis! John tells us that Jesus has always existed. Do you know anything that lasts forever? Not only has Jesus lived forever and ever, but John tells us that Jesus is God! Jesus and God are the same!

Let's look at another bible verse, read Genesis 1:1–3. "In the very beginning, God made the heavens and the earth." Do you know how God created the earth? He talked to it! He said "Let there be light, and there was light." Just like God spoke to the light, He gives us Jesus to put His light in our hearts so we can be with Him forever!

Let's learn a new word! In Greek, John tells us that Jesus is the "Logos." Logos means that Jesus is the Word of God. He is the One who God sent down to earth so He could tell us how much He loved us. God squished all His big power into a tiny baby so that Jesus could give us God's message. And God's message is this: "I love you."

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… thank You for bringing God's Word… thank You for telling us how much You love us… Amen.

Prompts:
• What does it mean that Jesus always existed?
• How powerful does that make Him?

Week 1 //Day 2

John 1:4–5

Paraphrased Passage: *"In Jesus there is life. Jesus gives life to us. He is our light. Jesus' light shines all over the world and nothing can overpower it."*

John tells us that Jesus brings two things: light and life. We learned yesterday that He is the One who created everything, the One who gives life to everything we see. But Jesus is also the

one who shines light in the dark places. He's the one who brings happiness and joy to a world that is sad and broken.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Psalm 27:1."The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" King David writes that God is light and brings salvation to us. Just as God shone in the Old Testament, Jesus brings an everlasting light that will never be burnt out.

Let's learn a new word! The word katalambanō (Greek) can mean "overcome" or "overpower." Satan will never ever be able to blow out Jesus' light. Jesus has chosen to put His light inside of us. Satan has no power over us because Jesus' light lives in our hearts.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus…You are the Light of the World…please fill us with your light…now and forever… Amen.

Prompts:
• How can you shine Jesus' light and tell people about Him? • What can we do when we don't know how to shine Jesus' light?

Week 1 //Day 3

John 1:6–8

Paraphrased Passage: *"The disciple John was sent by God to tell us about Jesus, who is the Light of the World. John wrote this book so that others could believe in Jesus like John did. John was not the Light, but came to tell us about the Light of the World (Jesus)."*

This passage tells us about John's purpose. John was here to simply tell us about Jesus. His mission was to get as many people to believe in Jesus as possible. Just like John, we are not the Light of the World, but God wants us to tell as many people as we can about how Jesus died for our sins and rose back to life!

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Malachi 3:1. "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." John is God's messenger! He prepares us for the Good News of Jesus.

Let's learn a new word! The word martyria (Greek) means testimony. A testimony is when someone tells the truth in whatever situation. The disciple John shows us that when we follow Jesus, it requires courage, strength, and focus on Jesus instead of ourselves.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus…help me tell the truth like John…help me to be strong…help me to have courage… and tell others about you… Amen.

Prompts:
• Are there times when it's hard to tell people about Jesus? • When are some easier times to talk about Jesus? • How can we have courage like John did?

Week 1 //Day 4

John 1:9–13

Paraphrased Passage: *"Jesus, the true Light, was coming to the world. Even though Jesus was born into the world and made the whole world, the world did not know who He was. They did not believe in Him. But whoever did believe in Him, He made them to be His children.*

We are Children of God. When we are baptized, Jesus marks us as His children. Not because of anything we do, but because God shows us how much He loves us even when we mess up and do wrong things.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Isaiah 9:2. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah tells us long before Jesus was born that He would be a "great light." Jesus is truly a great light. He is the light of the world. He shows us God's love by dying on the cross.

Let's learn a new word! The word lambanō (Greek) means to take hold of or embrace / hold on to. When we believe in Jesus, we are trusting. We are trusting Jesus in everything we do and say and every situation we go through.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear God…thank you for

making me Your child…help me…live as someone in your family…Amen.

Prompts:
• How does it make you feel that you are God's child? • How do you think someone in God's family would / should act?

Week 1 //Day 5

John 1:14–18

Paraphrased Passage: *"God Himself became a human and was born among us. He was full of glory. Jesus is the picture we get of God. No one has seen God except through the person of Jesus. Jesus has made God known to us.*

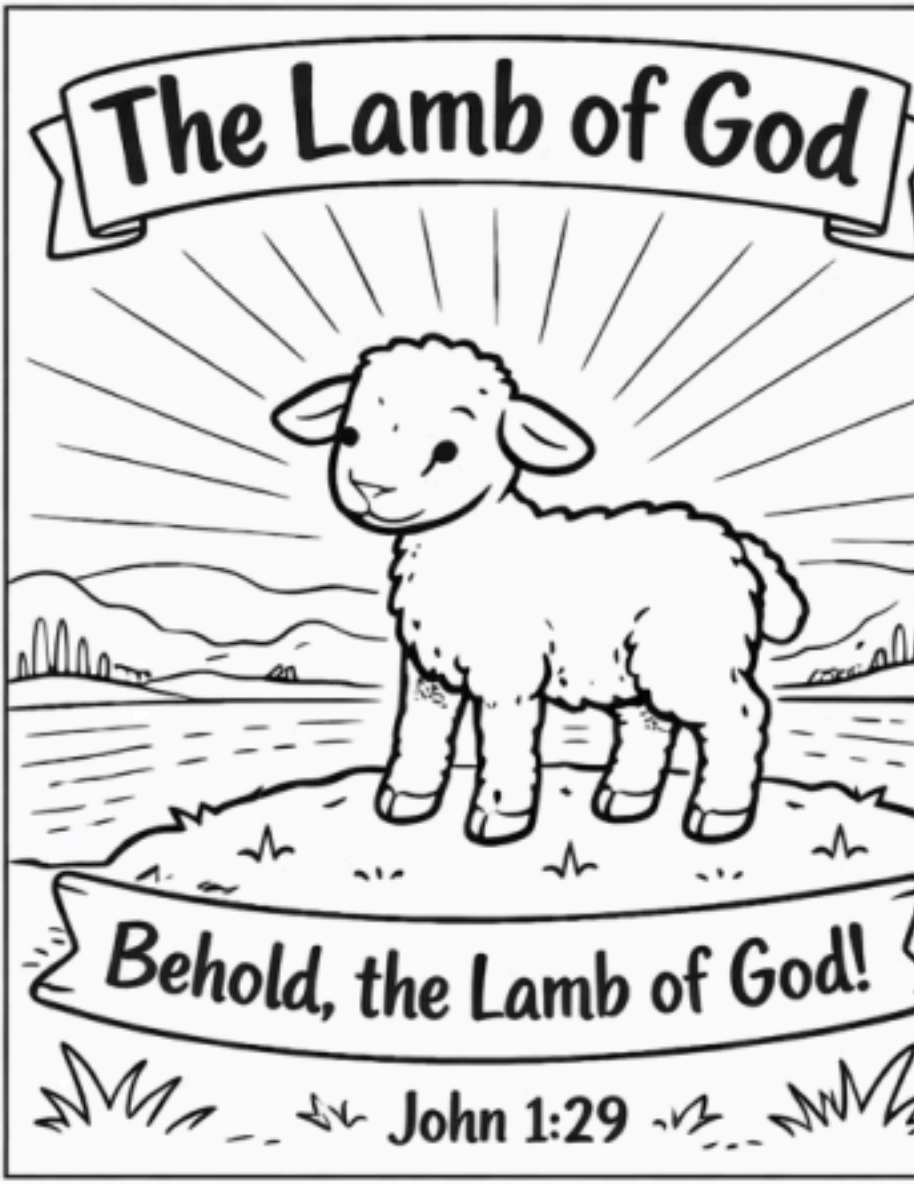
A lot of times it seems like God lives far away from us. But when Jesus was born right here with us, God was not far off. God was right here with us! We could literally hold God in our arms! In Jesus, we can see the full picture of God and His glory.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Exodus 33:18–23. Moses asked to see God's glory but could only see a little part of it. In Jesus, we now see all of God's glory and power - not in thunder or fire like Moses saw, but in love and grace.

Let's learn a new word! The word eskēnōsen (Greek) literally means "pitched His tent." Back in the Old Testament, God's house was like a tent. Now, Jesus lives with His people. God doesn't need to live in a tent anymore. He is living through Jesus. He is living in our hearts.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus…you are truly God…thank you for living with us…please fill us with your grace and truth…as we follow you everyday…Amen.

Prompts:
• Did you know that Jesus is God?
• Why do you think God chose to come down to Earth instead of just staying up in heaven?



Week 2 //Day 1

John 1:29

John the Baptist looked at Jesus and shouted: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John doesn’t tell us that Jesus is a warrior or king but God’s payment for sin - the true Passover Lamb. For many years, the Israelites would kill lambs at Passover to remember God freeing them from slavery in Egypt; now John tells all the people that Jesus is the final payment - the Lamb of God - to save us not from slavery in Egypt, but saves us from our sin.

Look up Exodus 12:3–13. The Israelites put the blood of the lamb over their doors so death would “pass over” them. John points to Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment: His blood protects us and saves us from sin and death.

Let’s learn a new word! The word “world” (Greek: kosmos) refers not only to all people but to all of God’s creation. John proclaims that Jesus’ death reaches to the farthest corners of creation - His saving work is for all people, everywhere, for all time.

Prayer (“repeat after me” prayer): Lamb of God… thank You for taking… my sin upon Yourself… Help me live… in the freedom… that I have in Jesus. Amen.

Prompts:

• Jesus is our Lamb of God! What does that mean to you? • Where is the farthest part of the world you can think of? Is Jesus’ love there, too?

• Just like John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus, who can we proclaim Jesus to in our neighborhood this week?

Week 2 //Day 2

John 1:30–34

John knew that he wasn’t as important as Jesus, because Jesus existed before all creation. When the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus, John knew that Jesus was special. John baptized with water, but Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit. Throughout Israel’s history, kings and prophets received a blessing with oil - something we call an anointing - as a sign that God’s Spirit was with them. But

instead of oil, Jesus our King receives this special anointing directly by the Holy Spirit. No oil needed! This showed how important Jesus' Heavenly mission was here on Earth.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Isaiah 11:2. "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him." The prophet Isaiah knew that Jesus the Messiah would be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, understanding, and power.

Let's learn a new word! The word "remain" (Greek: meno) means "to stay, abide, dwell." It's not always easy for us to sit still or remain in one place for long. Just like the oil anointings in the Old Testament were temporary, they needed to be renewed. But when the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus, it was a forever-anointing! The Spirit lives permanently in Jesus. This forever-anointing shows us Jesus is the true Son of God. He has God's power and purpose to work in our lives forever.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayewr): Spirit of God… rest on me as You did on Jesus... Help me remain in you… as you make me more like Jesus… every day. Amen.

Prompts:

- How cool is it that the same Spirit that with Jesus lives in you as well!?
- How does the Holy Spirit help you each day?

Week 2 //Day 3

John 1:35–39

When the disciples heard John talk about Jesus, they started following Jesus, too! When Jesus wanted to hear from them about why they were following Him, the disciples said they wanted to be with Him. Following Jesus begins with wanting to be where Jesus is. In the early history of Judaism, a rabbi was a teacher who gathered students - disciples - to live alongside the rabbi to learn and grow. Following Jesus would have seemed like joining a new teacher - yet these students were about to learn that Jesus was so much more than that!

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Psalm 27:4. "One thing have I asked of the LORD… to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life." The writer of the psalm has that

same heart of a disciple - to be where Jesus is - to live with Him forever.

Let's learn a new word! The word "follow" (Greek: akoloutheo) means "to accompany" or "to walk the same path." Think of the game "Follow the Leader," where you say and do all the same things the leader does. In John's Gospel, following Jesus is not just physical movement in a game, but a lifelong journey of loving and following Jesus in all we say and do.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… I want to be where You are... Teach me to follow You closely… not just in my words… but with my whole life, too.... Amen.

Prompts:
• What are some ways you follow Jesus every day? •
How can you follow Jesus more closely this week?

Week 2 //Day 4

John 1:40–46

As Jesus got more and more famous, people wanted to see who this Jesus was. Andrew brings his brother Simon to Jesus, and Philip invites Nathanael: "Come and see." The people who followed Jesus first weren't forcing people to follow Jesus or argue about it, but they were inviting them to hear about the Good News that Jesus was teaching. The people of Israel waited so long for God's promised King to restore His people, so the invitation to "come and see" carried the deep hope that our Savior had finally come.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Isaiah 52:7. "How beautiful… are the feet of him who brings good news." Like Andrew and Philip, we get to tell other people about Jesus. It doesn't have to be complicated. We get to just tell them about all that Jesus has done for us with a joyful heart.

Let's learn a new phrase! The phrase "come and see" (Greek: erchou kai ide) is both an invitation and a challenge. It invites people to experience Jesus personally rather than just hear about Him secondhand - faith begins with encounter, not information. Just like these early followers, we can help the gospel spread through inviting people to learn more about Jesus and telling them

about what He's done for us. We don't have to force them to do it, but we get to invite them to get to know our Jesus!

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Lord Jesus… give me courage and joy… to invite others to "come and see"… who you are… and to experience you… for themselves... Amen.

Prompts:

- Let's practice how you can invite someone to learn more about Jesus. What would you say?
- Who in our life can we invite to "come and see" Jesus at church this week?

Week 2 //Day 5

John 1:47–51

When Jesus sees Nathanael, He knows exactly who he is, and when Jesus reveals that to Nathanael, Nathanael says, "You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!" Just like Jesus recognized Nathanael, Nathanael recognized who Jesus is! But Jesus promises even more. Jesus is the true bridge between heaven and earth. Jesus is the one who connects us to our Father in Heaven.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Genesis 28:12. Jacob saw a vision of a ladder reaching heaven, with angels going up and down. Jesus is like this ladder. He is the true connection between God and all people; He came down from heaven so we can go up to heaven. Like the ladder Jacob saw. Like a bridge.

Let's learn a new word! The title "Son of Man" (Greek: huios tou anthrōpou) comes from the book of Daniel, where Jesus is described as a human king but who will rule forever. He came as a human to rule as king, but because He is God, he will rule forever! Jesus is the Son of Man and the Son of God our Father. As our King, His love is our bridge to Heaven to be with Him forever.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Son of Man… open my eyes to see… You as the bridge… between heaven and earth... Let me trust in Your promises… of greater things to come. Amen.

Prompts:

- How is Jesus like a bridge for us?

• What can we look forward to in the future because of Jesus and His promises?



Week 3 //Day 1

John 2:1–11

At a wedding in Cana, Jesus performed His first miracle. His mother came to him and told him that they had run out of wine for the feast. So Jesus asked the servants at the wedding to fill six large stone jars with water. Then he did the extraordinary - He turned ordinary water into wine! This moment marks the beginning of His work for everyone to see. The people at the wedding were able to witness a miracle of God - and Jesus didn't make a big show of it. He helped the bride and groom quietly and kindly.

Believe it or not, the miracle of turning water into wine was also meant to show us something important. Just like Jesus changed simple water into something extraordinary, He came down to Earth and to do something extraordinary in our lives, too. Before Jesus came, people tried to follow many rules to stay close to God. But when Jesus came, he made a new way for people to know God - by having a relationship with Him!

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Isaiah 25:6. "On this mountain, the LORD of all will make for everyone a feast of great food with wonderful refreshing drinks." This miracle shows us how many things God gives us and how He provides for us! It also shows us amazing it is when Jesus transforms us.

Let's learn a new word! The word "sign" (Greek: sēmeion) means more than a miracle - miracles show us that Jesus was fully God at the same time that He was fully a man. The water jars were used for bathing and making people clean. Jesus fills the jars with wine, which is a reminder that we are made clean by His blood on the cross.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… You are the One who changes us... Take what is ordinary in my life… and fill it with Your grace and joy... Let Your presence bring new life… where I have grown tired... Amen.

Prompts:

- Where do you need Jesus to change something in your life or attitude?
- How can you ask Him to help you change the way you think about others?

John 2:3–5

At the wedding feast, the people ran out of wine. Mary, Jesus' mother, turned to him and told him, "They have no wine." Jesus answered his mother by telling her that His time to begin his ministry has not started yet. But Mary showed trust in him because she knew who he was. When Jesus told her, "My time has not yet come," He is talking about His big plan that he had for his ministry here on earth - his death and resurrection.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read John 12:23. "The time has come for the Son of Man to show his greatness and glory." Jesus' miracles always pointed to something even bigger – the cross. When Jesus died on the cross and rose back to life, we got to see how much He loves us!

Let's learn a new word! The phrase "My hour" (Greek: hōra mou) represents the special time that God chose for Jesus to come down and save the world from our sins. Even when Jesus changed water into wine, He did things at the right time – God's time. Mary's faith in Jesus reminds us that we can also trust in God and His perfect timing.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… teach me to trust in your perfect timing... Help me to share my worries with you… trusting that you work all things for our good. Amen.

Prompts:

- What would be an example of a time when it's hard to trust Jesus?
- How does Mary show us that we can trust Jesus even when we don't know what He's doing?

Week 3 //Day 3

John 2:6–8

Near Jesus there were these huge stone jars. In fact, they could hold up to 20-30 gallons! Jesus told the servants to fill the six stone jars with water - and they filled them "to the brim." Then He told them to scoop some of the water out and take it to the master of the feast. But it was no longer water that was in the jars… it was wine! The servants listened to Him without

knowing his plan, and because they listened, they got to see his miracle.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Philippians 2:8–9. Jesus Himself gave us the perfect example of what it means to listen to God, even when it meant dying on the cross. Just like the water was turned into wine, His dead body was raised back to life! Because Jesus obeyed God, we can be transformed too!

Let's learn a new word! The word "fill" (Greek: gemizō) means to make completely full, leaving no room for anything else. This part of the story shows us how completely God looks out and takes care of us. He doesn't just give us a little bit of his love, He fills us up completely, leaving no space uncovered by His love.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… help me to listen and follow you… even when I don't see your whole plan… Fill the empty spaces in my life… with your love... Amen.

Prompts:
• How can we do our best to listen to Jesus today? •
Have you ever felt filled-to-the-brim with his love?

Week 3 //Day 4

John 2:9–10

The servants scooped some of the water out and took it to the master of the feast. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had been turned into wine, he did not know where it came from. It tasted so good, he even said that the bride and groom must have saved the best wine for last! Jesus' miracles tell us a lot about Him. They show us that He is the Son of God, but they also show us His heart. We have a loving and giving God who saves the best for us in His perfect time.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Psalm 104:15. This verse tells us that God gives "wine that fills the human heart with gladness." Just like Jesus filled everyone's cup at the wedding, God sends Jesus to bring us joy that fills our hearts so we'll never be empty!

Let's learn a new word! The word "good" (Greek: kalos) means more than being "okay" or "nice" - it means beautiful, noble, and excellent. What Jesus gives us isn't just better; it's exactly right at just the right time. This reminds us of the goodness of God's kingdom! There, His gifts are better than anything we could ever imagine!

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… You give us exactly what we need… and your timing is always perfect... Help me to trust that You are saving the best for last… help me to trust in your timing… Amen.

Prompts:
• Can you think of a time when God's goodness surprised you? • Has His timing ever been different than yours, but better than you imagined?

Week 3 //Day 5

John 2:11–25

John tells us at the end of this story that the miracle at the wedding feast was Jesus' first miracle! He showed his disciples His Godly power and they believed in Him. The miracle at Cana was not just about turning water into wine. It was about Jesus showing who He really is. Jesus showed that He brings life, joy and change.

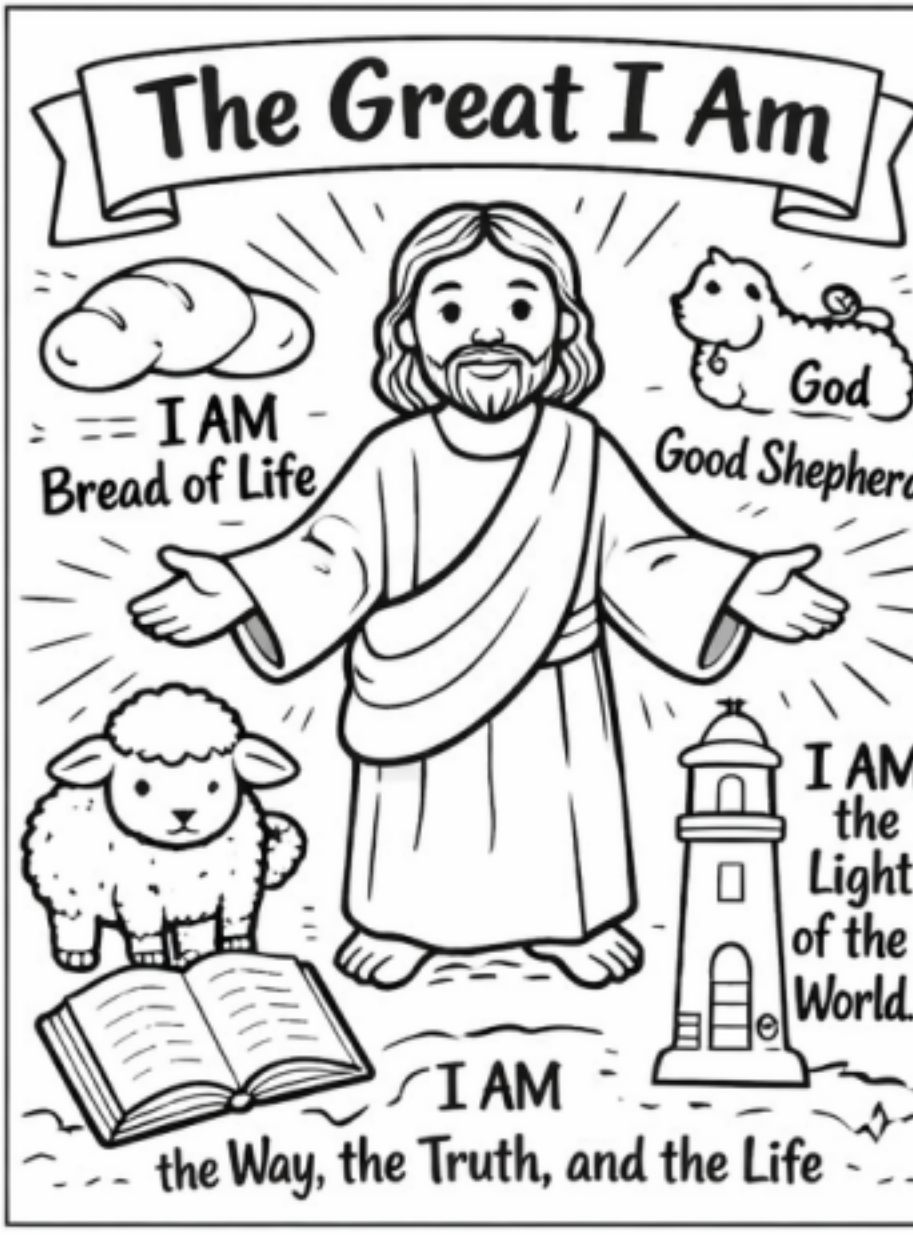
Later on in the chapter, Jesus and his disciples visited the temple. When He was in the temple, He cleaned it by telling the people who were using it in the wrong ways to leave. He was not happy with how there were people selling animals - and stealing money from people - in God's house. He showed how much He cared about worshipping God in the right way. God not only changes our hearts, but he also shows us how we should worship and he cleans up the things that we mess up in our lives.

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Malachi 3:1–3. "But when God comes, it will be a big moment. He will help clean and fix what is wrong. God will make us clean on the inside, like when gold is made shiny again. Then we will worship Him the right way, with hearts that love Him." Jesus does what Malachi talked about hundreds of years before, He cleaned the temple to help our hearts to worship Him in the right way.

Let's learn a new word! The word "zeal" (Greek: zēlos) means loving God so much that you really care about what is good. Jesus' actions in the temple show that true change involves both joy and doing what is right. He helps us celebrate with joy and worship Him in the right way.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… clean my heart as You cleaned the temple... Let my worship be true… help my joy to be real, and change my life with your love... Amen.

Prompt: How is Jesus asking you to change - not just in how you treat others, but in your heart and how you worship him?



Week 4 //Day 1

John 6:35

Opening Questions:

• Share a time when you were soooo hungry.
• What did it feel like to be so hungry?
• What were you doing that kept you from eating? •
What did you eat and what did it taste like?

Our bodies need food to survive. Food gives us energy to move, to think, and to grow. Our souls need a type of food to survive, as well, and in this verse, Jesus tells His disciples, and us, that He is that food! Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Jesus invites us to come to Him and promises that He will provide exactly what we need, ultimately, life with Him forever!

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Exodus 16:4. When God's people were on their way to the promised land, after leaving Egypt, they got very hungry and started complaining that they were so hungry they couldn't continue. God sent down manna (a type of food) from heaven each morning to feed His people as they traveled. God gave them the food they needed for their bodies, and Jesus tells us that He is the true manna, sent by God, from heaven to give us the spiritual food we need - eternal life!

Let's learn a new word! The Greek word for "life" (zoē) does not just mean life here on earth but life with God that He gives us. This spiritual life is one that doesn't end, but goes on forever with our God!

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… You are our Bread of Life… help us to turn to You… because only You… can satisfy all of our needs. Amen.

Prompt: How can we come to Jesus when our hearts are hungry and thirsty?

Week 4 //Day 2

John 8:12

Opening Activity:

1. *Take a flashlight into a dark space (ie. bathroom, pantry, garage).*
2. *Wait 20 seconds and try to see things in the room. <u>Ask: Do you know where the door is?</u>*

3. Without touching things around you, find your way out. 4. After everyone has had a chance to answer, have someone turn on the flashlight and lead everyone out.

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Darkness can be a scary thing, that's why flashlights are so great. Sometimes we can feel that our life is in darkness, even when we are in a room full of light. We worry about the future - what is going to happen, who will be with us, what things will be like. But Jesus reminds us that we don't have to be afraid of all of those unknowns, all of those areas of darkness. He is with us and is the Light of the World - the Light for us! We can seek to follow after Him and walk in the light that He brings, knowing that He is guiding us.

Let's look at another Bible verse. Psalm 27:1 - "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" The same light that guided God's people since the beginning, is still lighting up our lives and guiding us. We don't have to be afraid because God is with us!

Let's learn a new word! The word "light" (phōs) in Greek means telling the truth. Jesus brings truth to our confusion and our unknown future as we put our trust in Him.

Prompt: What is something in your life right now that we can bring before God in prayer, who promises to light up our lives?

Closing Prayer: Go back to the dark space with the flashlight and have each person complete this phrase: ***"Sometimes I feel like I am in darkness when …."*** Give the person the flashlight to turn on as they pray, ***"Jesus, You are the Light of the World. When I am in darkness, help me follow Your light."*** Amen. Repeat until everyone has had a turn.

Week 4 //Day 3

John 10:11

Today we hear Jesus say that He is the Good Shepherd. What is a shepherd's job? (ie. take care of the sheep, protect the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep). A good shepherd is going to protect the sheep from thieves who are trying to steal them, or animals who are trying to hurt them. A good shepherd is going to lead the sheep

to safe places to live, to play, and to rest. And a good shepherd is going to help their sheep find the food and water that they need to survive.

Who are Jesus' sheep? (us!) Jesus calls us His sheep and says that He is our Good Shepherd! He protects us. He leads us. He provides for us. But that's not all! Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Jesus, our Good Shepherd, laid down His life, died for us on the cross, as the most amazing example of His love for us, His sheep. Because of this, we get to be His sheep forever!

Let's look at another Bible verse. Psalm 23:1 - "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Jesus is our Good Shepherd and provides all that we need both now and forever! We can trust in Him to take care of us.

Let's learn a new word! The Greek word "good" (kalos) means beautiful and admirable. Our understanding of the word "good" isn't big enough when we are talking about our Jesus. His goodness knows no end!

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus…how good it is… to be Your sheep!...Thank You… for always taking care…of me… Amen.

Prompt: What is one way that you have felt Jesus, our Good Shepherd, take care of you this week?

Week 4 //Day 4

John 11:25-26

Opening Questions:

- When you have had to say a hard "goodbye"?
- Who were you saying "goodbye" to?
- What made it so hard? Saying "goodbye" can be really hard.

We don't want to say goodbye to our friends and family – we always want to be with them! But there are times when "goodbyes" have to come.

Jesus' friends, Mary and Martha had to say a hard "goodbye" to their brother, Lazarus, who died. They were so sad. The Bible

tells us that Jesus was also very sad that Lazarus died. Jesus came to see Mary and Martha and had some amazing words to share. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live." Jesus was telling Mary and Martha that death does not have to be a forever "goodbye". The power of death is nothing compared to the power of our God. Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He offers us eternal life with Him in Heaven, forever! Even death cannot keep us from God's love.

Let's look at another Bible verse. Isaiah 25:8 says, "He will swallow up death forever." Isaiah is talking about Jesus. Death on earth will come for us, but that is not the end! Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning gives us life forever with Him. What a party that will be!

Let's learn a new word! The word "resurrection" (anastasis) means "to stand up again," reminding us that even in death, Jesus will bring us "to stand up again" with Him in Heaven.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… thank You for dying on the cross for me… so that I never have to say "goodbye" to You… Amen.

Prompt: How do we live differently now, knowing that Jesus is the resurrection and life?

Week 4 //Day 5

John 8:58

Opening Questions:
• What is something that never changes?
• Can you think of anything?

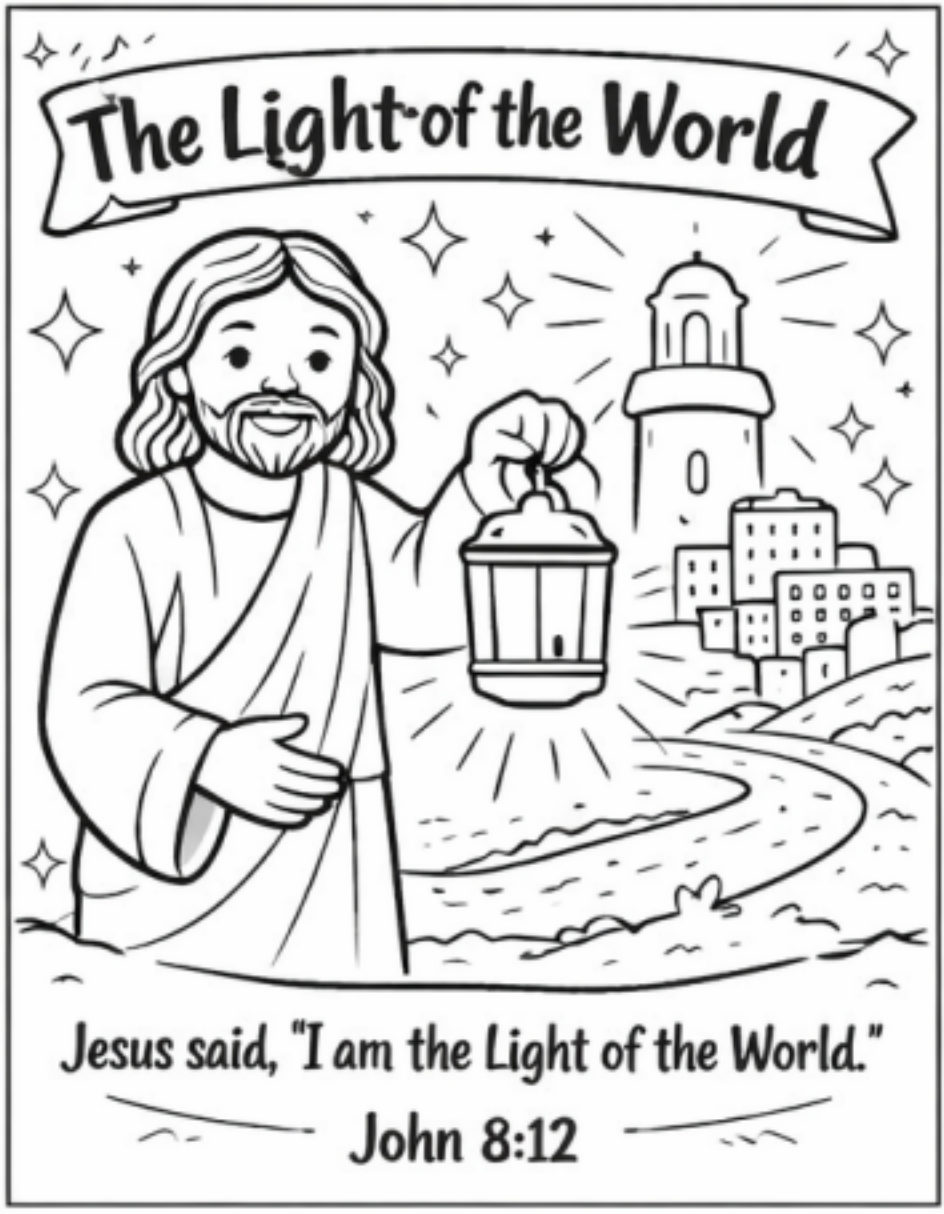
There isn't much around us that we can say never changes. In fact, even we change! We grow bigger. We like different toys. We play with different friends. Things and people are always changing. However, today, we hear Jesus say that He has always been and will never change. Jesus says, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus doesn't say, "I WAS then, but now I am different," or "I WILL BE different sometime in the future." He says, "I AM." That's it! We can count on our Jesus to be who He says He is, every single time. We can count on His never-failing, never giving up, always and forever love to be ours…ALWAYS!

Let's look at another Bible verse. God spoke words like this to Moses in Exodus 3:14 - "I AM WHO I AM." God was telling Moses that He alone is the one true God. Jesus, too, is telling us that He is the true God who came to earth as a human to save His people from our sins. He is the great "I AM" who was, is and always will be!

Let's learn a new phrase! The phrase "I AM" (egō eimi) in Greek means being around forever, from the beginning to the end. Jesus has always been there and will always be there. Jesus never ends.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Dear Jesus… how good it is to know… that You never change... and that Your love for me… will always be there...Amen

Prompt: How does it make you feel hearing that Jesus is the great "I AM" and will never change?



Week 5 //Day 1

John 9:1–5

Jesus met a man who had been blind since he was born. The disciples wondered if the man or his parents had done something wrong. Jesus said, “No—this happened so people could see how amazing God is.” Then Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jesus was teaching that hard things aren’t always punishments. God doesn’t cause bad things to happen but he can work good even during those hard times. God uses hard times to show His love and power.

- Have you ever gone through something hard?
- Did you learn something or did someone help you through the hard thing?
- How does light help us see better when it’s dark?

Let’s read another Bible verse, read Isaiah 42:6-7. In Isaiah**,** God promised to send someone who would be like a bright light for everyone. This light would help people who couldn’t see clearly and would help them understand God’s love. Jesus is that light who helps our hearts and eyes see the right way.

The Bible uses the word light to mean more than just something that shines. It also means revelation, which is a big word that means God helping us understand what is true. Jesus doesn’t just help us see with our eyes—He helps us see with our hearts.

Prayer (“repeat after me” prayer): Jesus, You are the Light of the world... Help me see You even when things are hard. Open my eyes to Your good plans… Use my life to show Your love… Amen.

Prompt: Can you think of a time when something hard helped you learn, grow, or see God’s love more clearly?

Week 5 //Day 2

John 9:6–12

Jesus bent down, made some mud, and gently put it on the blind man’s eyes. Then He told the man to go wash in a pool called Siloam. The man did exactly what Jesus said—even though it probably seemed strange! When he washed, he could see! By obeying Jesus, the man was healed. Jesus shows us that He doesn’t just help our bodies—He also helps our hearts.

- Would you obey Jesus even if His instructions didn't make sense?
- How do you think the man felt when he could finally see?

Let's look at another Bible verse, read 2 Kings 5:14. A man named Naaman was very sick, and God told him to wash in a river to be healed. At first it didn't make sense, but when Naaman obeyed, God healed him. Sometimes listening to God—even when it's simple—leads to big blessings.

Let's learn a new word! The pool the man washed in was called Siloam, which means "sent." Jesus was sent by God to help and save people. When Jesus sent the man to wash, it showed that trusting Jesus brings cleansing, healing, and new sight.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Jesus, I trust you Help me obey You even when I don't understand... Open my eyes to see You more clearly... Heal my heart and help me follow You... Amen.

Prompt: Is there something small Jesus might be asking you to do—like being kind, telling the truth, or helping someone—that could make a big difference?

Week 5 //Day 3

John 9:13–23

When the religious leaders heard that Jesus healed the man, they weren't happy. They argued because it happened on the Sabbath, a special day of rest. Instead of celebrating the miracle, they focused on rules. The man's parents were scared to speak up, so they stayed quiet.

This story teaches us that knowing rules isn't the same as knowing God. God wants brave hearts that trust Him, not fearful hearts that stay silent.

- How would you feel if you saw someone get healed? • Is it ever hard to speak the truth when you're afraid?

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Micah 6:8. God tells us

what really matters: being fair, being kind, and walking closely with Him. God cares more about loving others than just following rules.

Let's learn a new word! The word Sabbath means "rest." God made this day to help people rest and enjoy Him. But the leaders were so focused on staying in control and following that they forgot to enjoy God's goodness and rest in what He was doing.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): God, help me see You clearly... Teach me to love people more than rules... Give me courage to do what is right... Help me trust You and not be afraid... Amen.

Prompt:

- Can you think of a time when you followed rules but forgot to be kind or loving?
- How can you show God's love better next time?

Week 5 //Day 4

John 9:24–34

The leaders kept asking the man how he was healed. They tried to scare him, but he stayed brave. He said, "I don't know everything, but I know this—I was blind, and now I can see!" The man trusted what Jesus had done for him more than what the leaders said. When we really meet Jesus, we can tell others about Him with confidence.

- Have you ever told someone about something exciting that happened to you?
- Why do you think the man was so brave to speak up?

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Revelation 12:11: The Bible tells us that God's people win by trusting Jesus and by telling others what He has done. Sharing our story about Jesus helps us beat fear and doubt.

Let's learn something new about a word! The Bible uses the word witness, which means telling the truth about what you've seen or heard. This word comes from a bigger word that reminds us it can be hard to speak up. But telling others about Jesus shows what we really believe in our hearts.

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer): Jesus, thank You for what You've done for me... Help me be brave when I talk about You. Give me the right words to share your story... Help others see Your love through me... Amen.

Prompt: What is one way you could tell someone this week about how Jesus helps you or makes a difference in your life?

Week 5 //Day 5

John 9:35–41

After the leaders sent the healed man away, Jesus went looking for him. Jesus told the man who He really was, and the man believed and worshiped Him. The leaders thought they knew everything, but their pride kept them from seeing the truth. When we truly see who Jesus is, our hearts want to worship Him. When we refuse to listen, it's like staying in the dark.

- How do you show Jesus that you love Him?
- Why do you think believing Jesus makes us want to worship?

Let's look at another Bible verse, read Psalm 36:9: God is like a bright light. When we stay close to Him, He helps us understand what is true and good. God's light helps our hearts see clearly.

Let's learn something new about a word! The Bible word worship means more than singing. It means bowing down in our hearts and showing Jesus deep love and respect. When we worship Jesus, we are saying, "I trust You, and You are most important to me."

Prayer ("repeat after me" prayer):Jesus, I believe in You... Help me see You with my heart... Keep me humble and close to You... I want to walk in Your light every day... Amen

Prompt: What are some ways you can worship Jesus this week—at home, at school, or with your family? Write them down or draw a picture. Hang it up somewhere so that it can help remind you throughout the week!