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Choosing the Right Word

Key References: John 1:1-5; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 29, p. 281; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 2, pp. 44-51; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 73-77; vol. 7, pp. 23-26; Our Beliefs nos. 4, 6, 1















Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.

powertext

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind" (John 1:1, 4).

powerpoint

The light of Jesus' love inspires our service.

Have you ever been in a totally dark place, perhaps deep in a cave or in a dark room? Is that someplace you'd want to spend a lot of time? How can your life of service shine brightly to the people around you?

John sat at his simple wooden desk, a clean piece of parchment on the crude surface before him. The eastern sky was beginning to lighten. In just a few minutes he would no longer need the lamp that flickered bravely beside him.

At his age he didn't always sleep well anymore, so he was often up before the sun. He liked this time of day best, the time when the first rays of morning chased the night across the sky. He reveled in the promise of life that began each new day. In his younger days it had meant the end of work for the day, for fishing on the Sea of Galilee was best done at night. But then he had met Jesus, and his life had changed, as dramatically as daylight scatters the dark shadows of the night.

John dipped his reed into the ink and held it poised over the parchment. He had been thinking about this for a long time. The others who had known Jesus personally were all gone now; John was the only one left. If he didn't write down what he had personally seen and heard and felt, it might soon be lost forever. It was important that he choose exactly the right words to express what he meant. After all, the people for whom he was writing had never met Jesus, had never

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Sunday

READ Read John 1:1-3 and this week's lesson, "Choosing the Right Word."

THINK Why did John describe Jesus as "the Word"?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Thank God for sending the Word into the world.

Monday

READ Read John 1:4, 5.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, paraphrase the power text in a way that explains John's words.

SERVE What acts of kindness will you do today to share with someone the light of Jesus' love?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you share His light.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 1:1-3; Isaiah 60:1, 2; and John 1:1-5.

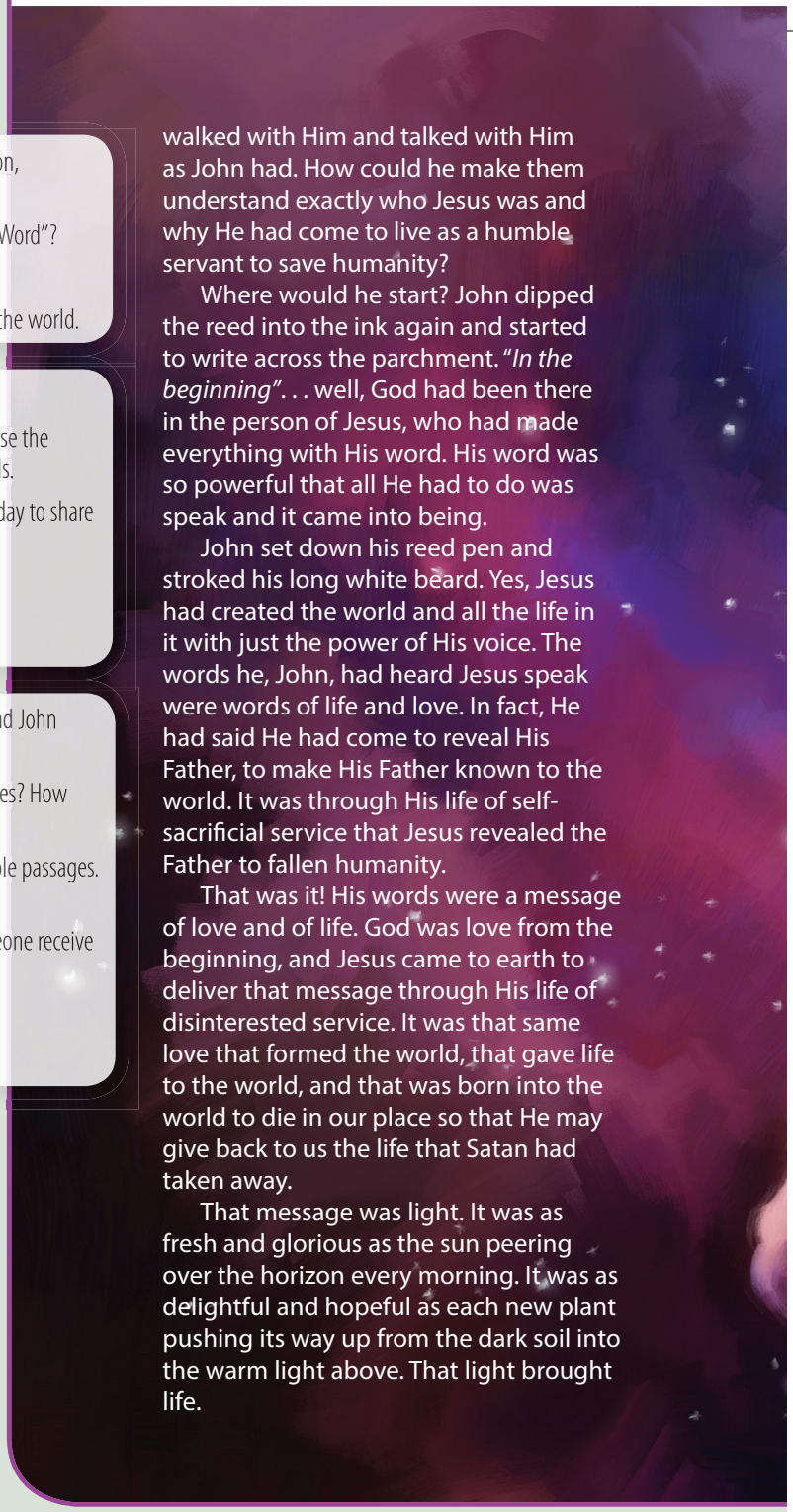
THINK What is the message of these passages? How can your life reflect the light of God's love?

ASK Ask an adult to explain to you these Bible passages. What does it mean to let your light shine?

SHARE What will you do today to help someone receive some glimpses of God's light?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the light Jesus brings.



walked with Him and talked with Him as John had. How could he make them understand exactly who Jesus was and why He had come to live as a humble servant to save humanity?

Where would he start? John dipped the reed into the ink again and started to write across the parchment. "*In the beginning*". . . well, God had been there in the person of Jesus, who had made everything with His word. His word was so powerful that all He had to do was speak and it came into being.

John set down his reed pen and stroked his long white beard. Yes, Jesus had created the world and all the life in it with just the power of His voice. The words he, John, had heard Jesus speak were words of life and love. In fact, He had said He had come to reveal His Father, to make His Father known to the world. It was through His life of self-sacrificial service that Jesus revealed the Father to fallen humanity.

That was it! His words were a message of love and of life. God was love from the beginning, and Jesus came to earth to deliver that message through His life of disinterested service. It was that same love that formed the world, that gave life to the world, and that was born into the world to die in our place so that He may give back to us the life that Satan had taken away.

That message was light. It was as fresh and glorious as the sun peering over the horizon every morning. It was as delightful and hopeful as each new plant pushing its way up from the dark soil into the warm light above. That light brought life.



Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 5:14-16.

THINK What effect does light have on its surroundings? How is that like the effect Jesus had on the world?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write what you think Jesus meant when He called His followers to be light.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a light in the world.

Thursday

READ Read John 1:9-14.

REFLECT Why do you think so many people did not accept Jesus when He came to live in our world? What did Jesus promise to give to those who received Him as the source of life and light?

WRITE Explain your answer in your Bible study journal.

SHARE Help someone understand that Jesus is the Light of the World.

PRAY Pray for someone to accept the light of Jesus.

Friday

READ Read John 8:12.

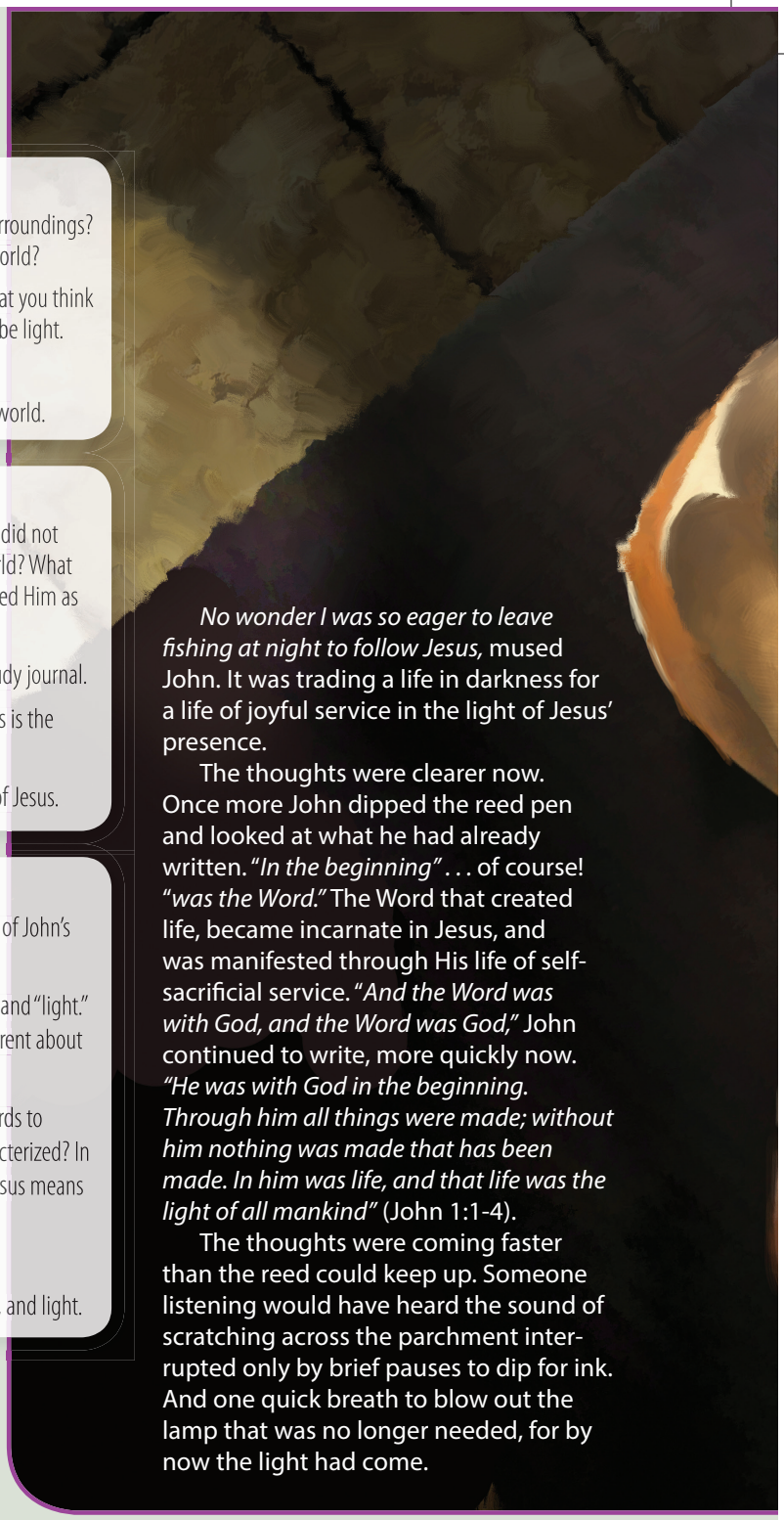
SHARE Explain to someone the significance of John's description of Jesus as "the Word."

COMPARE Compare the words "word," "life," and "light." What do they have in common? What is different about them?

THINK If someone were to choose three words to describe you, how would you like to be characterized? In what three words could you describe what Jesus means to you?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for Jesus, who is Word, life, and light.



No wonder I was so eager to leave fishing at night to follow Jesus, mused John. It was trading a life in darkness for a life of joyful service in the light of Jesus' presence.

The thoughts were clearer now. Once more John dipped the reed pen and looked at what he had already written. "*In the beginning*" . . . of course! "*was the Word.*" The Word that created life, became incarnate in Jesus, and was manifested through His life of self-sacrificial service. "*And the Word was with God, and the Word was God,*" John continued to write, more quickly now. *"He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind"* (John 1:1-4).

The thoughts were coming faster than the reed could keep up. Someone listening would have heard the sound of scratching across the parchment interrupted only by brief pauses to dip for ink. And one quick breath to blow out the lamp that was no longer needed, for by now the light had come.



PUZZLE 8

JESUS IS THE WORD

Instructions: See if you can find 24 or more six-letter-or-longer words made from the letters of the phrase:

"JESUS IS THE WORD"

For each word, you may not use a letter more times than it appears in the phrase.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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