

YEAR D | QUARTER 4

11

Moving Into Our Neighborhood

Grace
God gave Himself to us.

POWER TEXT

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

TEXTS AND REFERENCES

- John 1:14
- Hebrews 2:14-18
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 1, pp. 19-26
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 160-163
- Student story on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus came to this earth to show us how much God loves us.
- **Feel** appreciation for God's gift of Himself.
- **Respond** by personally accepting God's unconditional love for them.

POWERPOINT

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Incarnation, God's becoming man in Jesus, is the greatest miracle of all times. Jesus the eternal Word, Creator, took on flesh and blood and came into our world. He did this so He might become our Saviour and assure our salvation. At this time of the year it is especially appropriate to focus on the Incarnation, which has been referred to as His moving into our neighborhood (see John 1:14, *The Message*). Because of that, we are able to be better acquainted with God.

This is a lesson about grace.

Jesus Christ's motivation for taking on the form of sinful man was pure, unspeakable love. He came not only to save us from our sins, but also to give us a clearer picture of God's character through His everyday association with ordinary people. His message had a recurring theme: God loves you.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. . . . To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. . . . God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 25).

What evidence do I have that God loves me? What connects me to God?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Getting to Know You* *B. Tent Community*	 toothpicks or wooden craft sticks, paper, glue, box of sand or large piece of Styrofoam, premade tent for each group, labeled "Jesus"
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	precut magazine pictures, cellophane tape, two boxes or sacks Bibles, dictionaries, Bible reference materials, art supplies (optional) Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, slips of paper with Bible texts
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*A. Scenario* *B. Define It*	 Bibles, concordance, dictionary
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Moving Announcement*	art supplies, paper
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Getting to Know You

Divide your class into pairs by getting the class to count off half as many numbers as you have students and asking the numbers to pair. (For example, if you have 10 students in class, ask the class to number off to five twice, and put the ones together, the twos together, etc.) This should help ensure that best friends are not paired up. If you have an odd number, you will need to participate.

Students are to interview each other (maybe even the teacher) until they find three things they have in common. If your class is having a hard time getting started, suggest the following areas for exploration.

Favorites (foods, colors, sports)

School (subjects, teachers, books)

Family (birth order, birth date, number of siblings, pets, chores)

Ask the pairs to report to the group what they've found they have in common.

Debriefing

Ask: **How well did you know your partner before we did this activity? Were you surprised you had so much in common? What is the basis for friendship?** (Common interests, etc.) **Is it easy or hard to be friends with someone about whom you know nothing? God knew it would be hard for people to think of Him as their Friend when they didn't really know Him. So Jesus became a human. Our power text says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." What does that mean in your own words?** (Accept a variety of answers. Guide the discussion to make the point that Jesus left heaven to become a human and live with us on earth.) Say: **Let's say together our power text,**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Our power point is this:

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

B

Tent Community

YOU NEED:

- ☐ toothpicks OR wooden craft sticks
- ☐ paper
- ☐ glue
- ☐ box of sand OR large piece of Styrofoam
- ☐ premade tent for each group, labeled "Jesus"

If you have a large class, divide it into groups of about 10 to12. Instruct the class that they are going to build a tent community. They will each need a home, and they should work with the other members of their group to plan the rest of the buildings their community will need. They should write their name on the side of their home tent and the name of the other buildings on the side of those tents.

Show students how to make a tent by glueing toothpicks or wooden craft sticks to paper and sticking the wooden ends into the sand or styrofoam.

When each group is finished with its tent community, add the "Jesus" tent you have already made in such a way that it becomes a part of the community.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about someone else's moving into your tent community?** (Accept answers. Don't care, don't like it, etc.) **Why? Our Bibles weren't originally written in English. John wrote in Greek. The Greek that is translated in our Bible as "made his dwelling among us" is more literally translated as "tented" or "pitched his tent" among us. What kind of a visual image does that bring to mind?** (Accept answers.) **John was trying to get across the idea that Jesus became human and moved into our neighborhood. Do you have any idea why?** Say: **Our power text says,**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Our power point reminds us that,

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Special Delivery" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 51)
"Emmanuel" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 52)
"Jesus, Name Above All Names" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 54)
"Lamb of God" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 62)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission Magazine/ Youth and Adult* (go to www .juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use push pins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

If you have not been discussing with your students where the special mission project is for this quarter, begin to do so now. Discuss the types of housing the people there live in. Point out that the offering goes to help people realize that Jesus came to be one with them, whatever country they are from—to move into their neighborhood too.

Prayer

Ask your students to think silently for a moment about their image of God. Remind them that Jesus came not only to die for our sins as our substitute, but also to give us a clearer picture of what God is like. Ask them to pray for each other to better know themselves and God. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ precut magazine pictures
- ☐ cellophane tape
- ☐ two boxes OR sacks

Introducing the Bible Story

Collect a variety of pictures from magazines or newspapers, preferably in which something interesting or important is happening in one half of the picture. Cut each picture in half.

Put half of each picture in a box or sack. Put the other half of each picture in another box or sack. Give each student one of the half pictures and ask the students to try to identify the picture or what's happening in it. Next, pass around the box or sack with the other half-pictures and allow the students to find the other half of their picture and tape the two halves together.

Debriefing

Ask: **How accurate of a picture did you have when you had only half of it? How does it complete the picture to get the other half?** Say: **Before Jesus came to live on earth, people had only a partial picture of what God was like. They knew Him based on the experiences of the Israelites in the Old Testament. But that wasn't the whole picture. So**

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ dictionaries
- ☐ Bible reference materials
- ☐ art supplies (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Bring any Bible reference material that you have available, such as Bible dictionaries, commentaries, concordances, et cetera.

First find and read Hebrews 2:14-18 aloud with your students.

Then divide the class into groups of three or four. Assign each group the task of taking John 1:14, rewriting or paraphrasing it in contemporary language or in a way that more clearly expresses the meaning for them, and then presenting it in an artistic fashion for the rest of the class. Provide reference materials to help them explore the meaning of the text. They can act it out, turn it into a reading, make it into a song, paint or draw it, turn it into sign language, et cetera. The only requirement is that it be an artistic rendering of the verse.

Allow time for each group to share and explain their work of art.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ Bible texts on slips of paper
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Say: **We've talked about how Jesus' coming to earth as a human is like moving into our neighborhood. We know that**

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

Ask: **But how did He do that?**

Write the following texts on separate strips of paper. Ask for volunteers to take one and read the following text to themselves. One by one, they will then draw the situation described in the text on the board while the other students try to guess what it is. (This is similar to the game Pictionary.) After each, discuss how the incident illustrates Jesus' showing that God loves us.

John 2:1-11 (Attended wedding feasts; turned water into wine. Jesus was not opposed to going to a party and helping to make sure everyone had a good time.)

Matthew 8:1-3 (Healed the man with leprosy. A person with leprosy was ceremonially as well as physically unclean and was forced to live apart from others. Jesus not only healed the man, He touched him to do it.)

Matthew 8:5-13 (Healed the centurion's servant. A centurion was an officer in the hated Roman military. The Jews would have considered him unclean. Jesus didn't discriminate.)

Matthew 9:1, 2 (Many Jews lived without the assurance of forgiveness. Jesus not only healed this man, but forgave him.)

Matthew 15:29-37 (Fed the 4,000. Jesus was concerned with human hunger and assumed responsibility for it.)

Mark 10:14 (Blessed the children. Jesus' disciples considered this a waste of His time, but Jesus obviously loved and was loved by children.)

Luke 7:11-15 (Raised the widow of Nain's dead son. Jesus was moved with compassion toward her.)

Luke 12:6, 7 (Five sparrows sold for two pennies. Jesus taught that God cares for even the most insignificant of His creatures. The number of hairs on your head do not escape His notice.)

Luke 15:3-7 (Parable of the lost sheep. Jesus taught there is rejoicing over one sinner who repents and is saved.)

Luke 15:11-24 (Parable of the prodigal son. Jesus taught

that the father never stops looking for the lost son, and rejoices when he comes home.)

Luke 19:1-6 (Zacchaeus. Jesus invited Himself to the home of someone who was hated by the Jews and regarded as a thief and a traitor.)

Luke 19:41 (Jesus saw the future destruction of Jerusalem and wept because of it.)

John 8:1-11 (Jesus refused to condemn a woman caught in sin. Instead, He caused her accusers to leave her and instructed her to leave her life of sin.)

John 11:17, 32-36 (Jesus was grieved at the death of His friend.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you think of any other incidents from Jesus' life that show us that God loves us? Which of these incidents most clearly illustrates the power text for you?** Say: **Let's say it:**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Similarly, the power point states that

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Scenario

Read the following scenario aloud to your students: Your friend Marla wants to know more about Christianity. In the religion she is used to, people have to worry all the time about pleasing God. They are always trying to do good things so that God won't be angry and let bad things happen to them as punishments. What do you say to her?

Debriefing

Ask: **How were the Jews in Jesus' time like Marla? What in last week's or today's lesson have you learned that you could share with Marla? What was the Word or message that Jesus came to deliver?**

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

Define It

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ concordance
- ☐ dictionary

Divide the class into groups of two or three. Ask the students to use the dictionary to look up the meaning of love. Ask them to record their favorite definition. Then ask them to use a concordance to find three texts that tell us something about the way God loves us.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you find out about the definition of love? What were your most favorite texts about love? What did they show you about God's love for us?** Say: **God's Word helps us understand His love for us. As the power point summarizes this truth,**

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ art supplies

Moving Announcement

Offer students the opportunity to talk about how they shared God's love with someone during the past week. Ask them whether they had the chance to serve or tell someone about Jesus, their Friend. Distribute paper and art supplies to your students. Ask them to create an announcement about Jesus moving into their neighborhood. What will their neighborhood be like with Jesus as a neighbor? How will having Jesus as a neighbor change them? What can the other neighbors expect?

Debriefing

Ask: **How can understanding Jesus better change our lives? How do you feel about sharing these thoughts with your friends and neighbors?** Say: **Each of us can tell others that**

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Thank God for sending Jesus to move into our neighborhood to give us a more complete picture of what He is like. Ask for wisdom and courage to share Jesus' message with others.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Mary accepts God's call. When we make God first in our lives, He empowers us to do great things for Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

Moving Into Our Neighborhood

Have you ever moved to a new house? Did you wonder if you'd fit into the new neighborhood? Maybe you've had someone new move into your neighborhood. How did you go about making friends?

The scratching of John's reed pen on the parchment came to a sudden stop. Once again he felt the need to think carefully about what he was trying to communicate. *I've already explained how Jesus was the Word, the message of light and life from God,* John mused. *I think that's pretty clear. But now for this next part . . .*

Once again John played with his reed while he thought. He was the only disciple left, the last one who had walked and talked and eaten and lived with Jesus. He was writing down what he had seen and heard before it was too late—before his witness was gone forever. It was so important to choose the right words to communicate exactly who Jesus was to those who had never met Him in person.

Yes, He was God, John thought. *He was God who created the world with the power of His Word. He always was and always had been. But then He made a choice. He chose to leave the splendor of heaven in order to come down to this earth. He became a man.*

John picked up the reed and dipped it. The Word, the message of who God was, took on human form and became a man. "The Word became flesh," he wrote across the parchment.

But it was more than just becoming human, John thought. *He was such an unusual person. People responded to Him in a way they had never responded to anyone else. Huge crowds followed Him wherever He went. They invited Him to their parties. They brought their children to be blessed by Him. They loved Him. And He loved them back. He was God, but He was one of us.*

John thought back to some of the miracles he had seen Jesus perform. The first one had been at that wedding, in Cana. Whose wedding had it been? He couldn't even remember. But he remembered the look of desperation on Mary's face when she came to tell Jesus they had run out of grape juice. The entire party was about to come to a screeching halt. The host would be embarrassed. But Jesus didn't like to see anyone suffering, even of embarrassment, so He saved the party by turning water into wine. Now, *that* was fitting in.

Then John remembered the time Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead. That was in Nain. That poor woman was so grieved that Jesus couldn't help being moved by her sorrow. So He gave her back her son.

And later on in Bethany His good friend Lazarus had died. Jesus raised him from the dead, too, but not before He shed a few tears Himself, as if He were part of the family. Those who saw the whole thing even commented on how much Jesus loved Lazarus.

Yes, He loved us, John thought. *No matter who, no matter where. He was a part of us—and there was no better way to show us how much God loved us than by becoming one of us and living with us, feeling our sorrow, healing our pain, sharing our joy, and then dying on the cross for our sins. He told us that if we had seen Him, we had seen the Father. Well, after you came to know Jesus, there was no way you couldn't believe that God loved us too. By living with us, Jesus showed us what God is really like.* John dipped again and read what he had already written: "The Word became flesh." *Yes,* thought John, *and more.* "And made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

It still amazes me, thought John. *God loved us so much that He took on human form and came to live with us and be one of us so we could have a clearer picture of how much God loves us. That truly is grace.*

KEY REFERENCES

- John 1:14
- Hebrews 2:14-18
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 1, pp. 19-26
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 160-163
- Our Beliefs nos. 4, 10, 9

POWER TEXT

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

POWER POINT

Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read John 1:1-9 and this week's story, "Moving Into Our Neighborhood."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that Jesus came to live in our world.

Monday

READ Read John 1:10–14.

THINK What does this passage mean to you? What does it mean that Jesus "came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (verse 11)?

WRITE Write your answer in your Bible study journal.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will come to know Jesus and receive Him as your personal Savior.

Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 25:8.

THINK After reading this passage can you think of another time when God dwelt with His people?

CONSIDER If you had been living in Jesus' time, how would your thoughts about God have changed once you had met Jesus?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for sending Jesus to give us a clearer picture of what He is like.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 1:23.

ASK Ask three people how it is important that God came and lived with us.

REVIEW Repeat your power text until you can say it from memory.

THINK Which of your acquaintances needs to know the good news about Jesus? How can you help that person see Jesus as He really is?

PRAY Ask God to give you the courage and wisdom to share Jesus with those who don't know Him.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 9:28–36.

FIND Look up the word "glory" in the dictionary. Can you think of some times when people saw God's glory? (Try Exodus 3:1–6; 33:18–23; 40:34–38; Luke 9:28–36.)

DRAW Illustrate one of the Bible passages you just read.

THINK How do people usually respond to God's glory? Is that how they responded to Jesus? Do people see God's glory in you? Why or why not?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you shine your light to those around you.

Friday

READ Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 21:3.

THINK What will happen when Jesus' glory is revealed for everyone to see?

SHARE Think of people with whom you could share God's love. Allow His light to shine through you as you serve others and tell them about your Friend, Jesus.

REPEAT Share your power text with your family at worship tonight and tell them why Jesus moved into our neighborhood.

PRAY Thank God for sending His Son to our neighborhood to show us that He loves us.