11

Moving Into Our Neighborhood

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.

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.*

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.



11

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

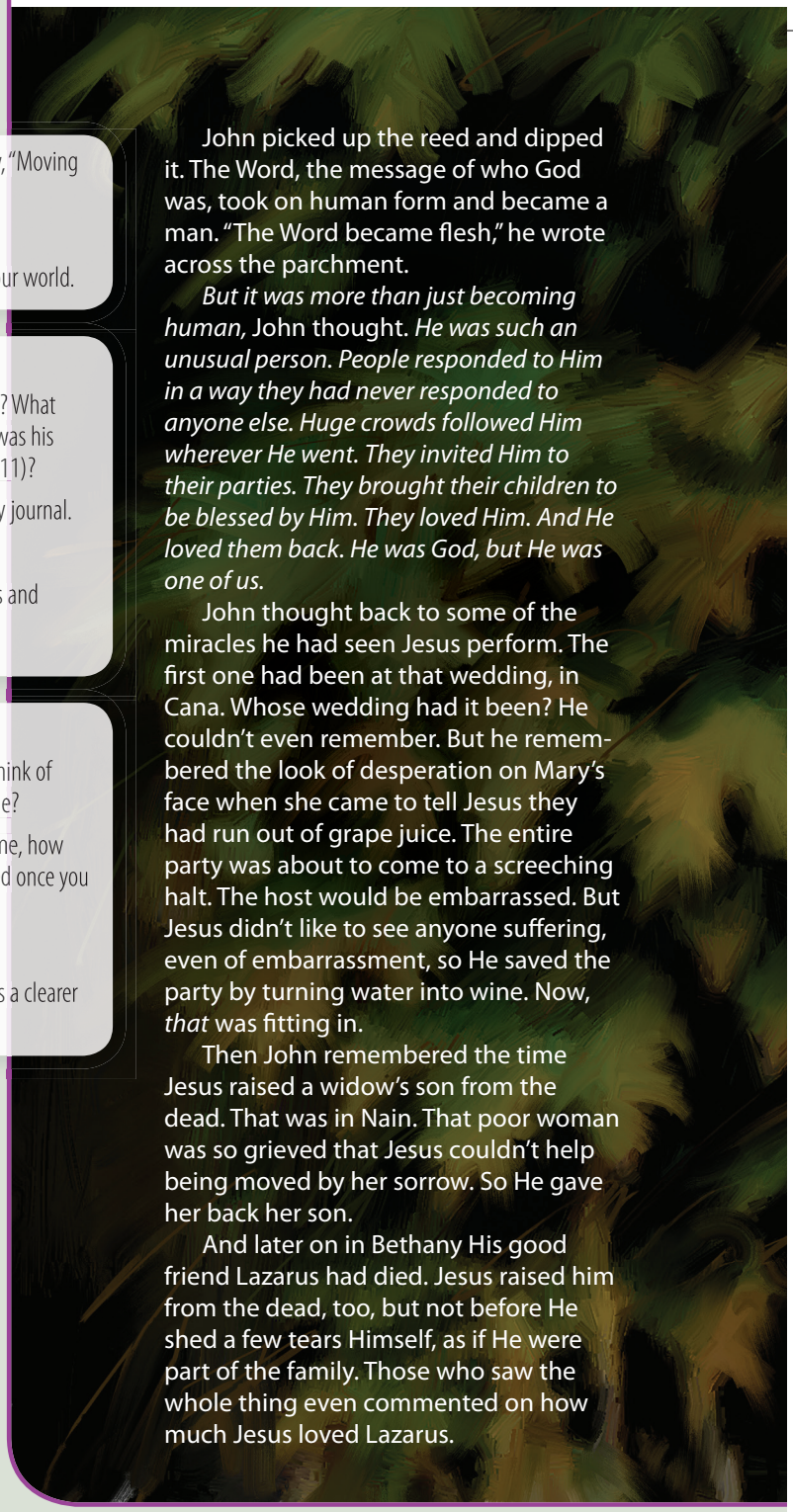
READ Read Exodus 25:8.

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.



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.



11

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.

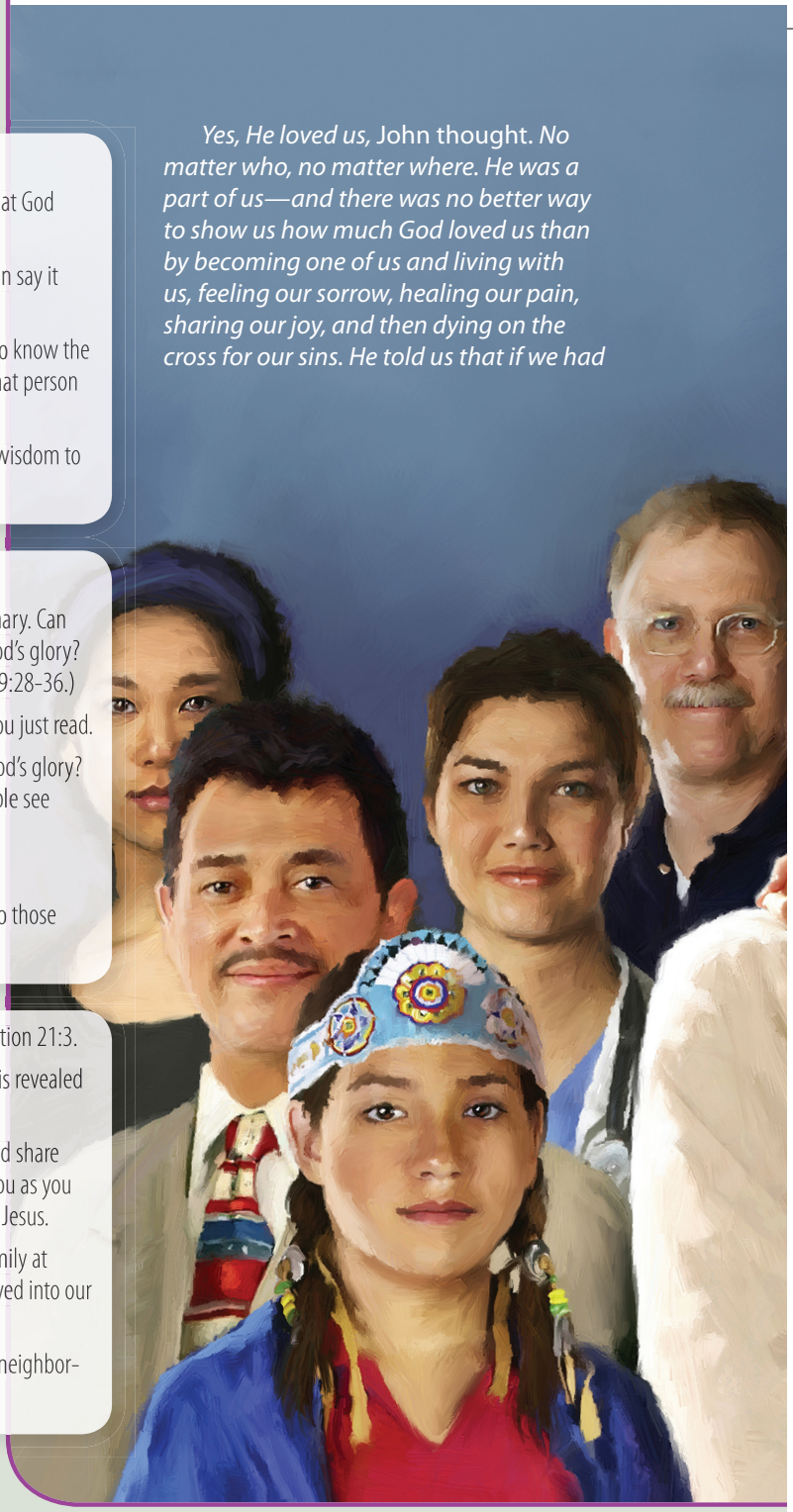
THINK What will happen when Jesus' glory is revealed for everyone to see?

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.

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.*



PUZZLE
11

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Instructions: Can you decode this passage from the table provided?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
+	S	D	G	H	B	T	W
=	M	C	A	E	V	R	I

2=4+6=7=1+6+ 7+3=1+

6+6=4=3=6+4=2+ 3=1+ 7+4=

2+4=1+4=6=5=4=, 6+4+3=6+ 7+4=

1=7=3+4+6+ 5+4= 6+6=4=3=6+4=2+

3=1+ 4+4= 2+4=1+4=6=5=4=1+.