

Big Idea: Jesus is God.

Primary Scripture: John 1:1-14

Supporting Scripture: John 20:31, John 3:16, Matthew 5:14-16

CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)

- Funny quotes from actual trials:
 - Trial 1:
 - **LAWYER:** What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?
 - **WITNESS:** Gucci sweats and Reeboks.
 - Trial 2:
 - **LAWYER:** Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?
 - **WITNESS:** All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.
- How a trial works
 - Opening statements
- The Gospel of John is organized much like a trial.
 - John is attempting to prove “beyond a shadow of a doubt” that Jesus is God.

³¹ But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (John 20:31 – NLT)

SCRIPTURE (What does God’s Word say?)

- Let’s start at the beginning of John.
 - John uses lots of metaphor.

^{1a} In the beginning the Word already existed. (John 1:1a – NLT)

- “Word” = Jesus
- “In the beginning” sure sounds a lot like the opening line to Genesis.
 - This is on purpose. John wants the reader to know how big of a deal Jesus is.

^{1b} The Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1b – NLT)

- This is John's first instance of claiming that Jesus is actually God.

² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:2-5 – NLT)

- Metaphors:
 - Light = both Jesus and the salvation we receive through Jesus.
 - Darkness = the forces of evil opposing Jesus

⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:6-9 – NLT)

- John (the Disciple) and John the Baptist are two different people.

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (John 1:10-13 – NLT)

- John makes it clear that Jesus is the only way one can receive salvation.

¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 – NLT)

- John is making the argument that Jesus CAN save us, and Jesus WANTS to save us because He is God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:14 – NLT)

- Jesus isn't observing us from afar.
- He wants to know us so badly that He became one of us.
 - ...Jesus (who, remember, is God) was a baby, then a child, then a teenager, and then an adult
 - ...Jesus had a mom, chores, and maybe a curfew
 - ...and yes, Jesus probably had acne!
- Everything that makes you human, Jesus experienced.

INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)

1. Jesus is God.

- Others might say, "I believe Jesus was a good teacher," or "Jesus was a good, moral leader."
- But John is super-clear: Jesus is God.

2. Jesus brings light to our dark and broken world.

- Our world is hurting.
- But even at its darkest, there are always glimmers of light breaking through.

3. A relationship with God starts with belief in Jesus.

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12 – NLT)

- The belief John wrote about here means more than just believing Jesus was a real person in history or that He was a good and moral teacher.
- Believing in Jesus in the way John framed it in his Gospel means that you become convinced that Jesus is God, that He took the punishment you deserve for your sins through His death, and that He guaranteed forgiveness through His resurrection. By believing in

Jesus, we can receive His light and the salvation He gives us and become His children with no strings attached.

ACTION (How could we live this out?)

1. Join the Gospel of John challenge:

- Read 1 chapter of John every day for the next 21 days.

2. Share the light of Jesus with someone else:

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matthew 5:14-16 – NLT)

3. Weigh the evidence for yourself:

- Challenge students to return for all 4 weeks of the series so they can hear John’s argument for themselves.