

THIS IS JESUS

UNIT 1: THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS
PART 1: JESUS THE MESSIAH
Lesson 1: The Messiah & Main Character

Devotion 1

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Throughout your devotionals this week, your primary goal will be to get to know more about Jesus. Just like you, Jesus is more than a name and a few fun facts. But unlike you and everyone else you know, Jesus is more than another human being. He is the God of the Universe! Today, we are reading about Jesus as the life and light of our world.

Read John 1:4-5.

John connected the ideas of life and light in verse 4. The reality of sin in the world keeps humanity in darkness. As God enlightens us about salvation, we experience the eternal, abundant life He originally planned for us. God has been revealing Himself by shining light in the darkness since the beginning of Creation. Yet because of the presence of sin in the world, people resisted God's revelation. This is similar to a man who lives in darkness and, even when given a light, chooses to close his eyes and remain in the dark.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- Take another look at verse 5. Is there anything in your life that would cause you to choose the darkness over the light? Why?
- Jesus is the light. He is God. He took on flesh so that we could experience God's love for us. This is the One that you are going to spend a few minutes getting to know each day!

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Devotion 2

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Today, your task is to memorize the following verse.

Read John 1:14.

Jesus took on human flesh and came to earth to "make His dwelling" among us. He did not cease to be God, although He took upon Himself certain limitations because of His humanity. Even so, He was as much God as He was human; He was fully God and fully man.

As you memorize this verse, think about some of the things that it teaches you about who Jesus is. Challenge yourself to meditate on this verse throughout the week.

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Devotion 3

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (John 5:39-40)

The Bible (Scripture) testifies about Jesus. The word testify means to “make a statement based on evidence or proof.” It can also mean “to give evidence.”

Read John 5:39-40.

Jesus was saying that as you read Scripture, it will show evidence or proof of who He is. Why? So you’ll come to know Him and experience life the way you were designed to live it!

As you begin searching Scripture in order to know Jesus better, what’s one question you’d like answered about Jesus, or one thing that you would like to discover about Him?

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Devotion 4

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17)

Read Colossians 1:15-17.

Make a list of everything that this passage tells you about Jesus.

Now take a moment and read over what you've written down. Jesus leaves no other option as to Who He is. Although He is a good teacher, and a great person, His identity goes beyond that. He is God—the Maker and Sustainer of all things. Including you!

Now read Colossians 1:18.

Jesus calls us to follow Him. This verse reminds us that He is the Leader of all who follow Him, and what a great example He has set!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- How different would your life look if you viewed Jesus as the Leader in all things?
- Write down a few thoughts that you have about Jesus based on the passage above.

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Devotion 5

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)

Today's passage is long, but it holds a really important challenge. As you read it, pay special attention to verses 5-7.

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

In this passage, we are challenged to take on the servant attitude of Jesus. That is what it means when it says "have this mind among yourselves."

It is interesting to think of the all-powerful God in a servant role. In most of our lives, we want the best to be front and center. In fact, we have done such a good job of this, there are record rates of burnout happening all across the world. In our mind, if you are the greatest or the best, then you should be doing that thing, or else you are wasting your time.

When it comes to God's ways, they can be pretty difficult to grasp. Especially when it seems like the world around you is communicating a different message. Humbling yourself isn't really how you 'get ahead' in this world. And most people believe a servant attitude means being a pushover... but Jesus was anything but a pushover!

Take a few moments to reread Philippians 2:1-11. Try to identify some things that Jesus did that are completely different from what you've been taught is successful or even good! Reflect on what that says about Him, as well as what that says about the world around you. Which way is correct? (Here's a hint- God's way is always correct!)