



# God Dwells With Us

John 1:1-14

Many first- and second-graders are afraid of the dark. For them, there's a connection between darkness and fear, and there's a connection between light and a feeling of relief and assurance. Because the fear of darkness is a strong reality for this age group, they'll be able to identify with Jesus as the light. Use this lesson to help kids know that Jesus is the light of the world because he's God *and* man, and assure kids that Jesus' light brings goodness into their lives.



### ► Bible Point

Jesus is God.

### Key Verse

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

### Weaving Faith Into Life


Kids will know Jesus is God and tell others about him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Searching in the Dark</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to find someone in the dark, and learn that Jesus is our light.		Remove obstacles from the center of the room.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Who Is Jesus?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to John 1:1-9 with only a flashlight for light.	Bible, flashlight	
	<b>Bright Lights</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make lights.	My Bible Fun, CD player, several pairs of scissors, 1 large paper cup per child, tape, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>The True Light</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Participate in an activity using their lights, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, My Bible Fun, cups from the "Bright Lights" activity, flashlight	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Spreading the Light</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decide who they'll tell that Jesus is our light.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, markers, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Christmas Tree" poster</p> 	
<p><b>4</b> Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





# God Dwells With Us

John 1:1-14

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## In the Beginning the Word Was With God

The first sentence of the book of John recalls Genesis 1:1. In this first section of his Gospel, John outlines the topic he explores throughout the entire book: The Word—Jesus—was human, was divine, and came to provide salvation for all who believe.

Even in the original Greek, the emphasis in the first sentence isn't on the subject, "the Word." Instead it's on "the beginning." John wanted to make it clear that Jesus himself was present in the beginning, before the creation of the world. The fact that John says Jesus was "with God" makes it clear that he is distinct from the Father, but John then says that Jesus "was God," also making it clear that he is fully divine.

"The Word" is a title given to Jesus in the Bible only by John. John sees Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God—the Word of God in human form.

## Jesus Was Active in Creation

In emphasizing that Jesus is God, John points out in verse 3 that Jesus was active in Creation. Thus we have a picture of the Trinity at work in Creation: The Father spoke, and through the acting of the Word, his words were carried out as the Spirit moved upon the waters. Though Jesus, as God incarnate, was physically born at a point in time, the Word exists eternally as God. John leaves no doubt in his readers' minds that Jesus is fully divine.

## In Jesus, God Became Flesh and Blood

In verse 14, John points out that the Word, God himself, didn't come to earth just to teach people or to live among people, but he came as flesh—a human being with all the struggles and temptations we face.

However, in becoming flesh, the Word did not cease to be God. Jesus was fully God and fully human. For the benefit of doubters, John essentially says "We know it's true because we've seen him." Jesus revealed the glory of God himself to people on earth. God has done it all for us. All we need to do is believe.

## The Jesus Connection

Fully God and fully man, Jesus lived with people on this earth 2,000 years ago. He died, he came back to life, and he lives with us today. That's reason to celebrate!

God isn't far off from our concerns and our daily lives. Jesus Christ lives within us. Are you living with the full awareness of Jesus' presence in your life? Thank Jesus for being your friend, and seek ways you can be more fully aware of his companionship and counsel. You can write your prayer here.

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### Searching in the Dark Easy Prep

Remove obstacles from the center of the room.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Searching in the Dark

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together in a circle.

Say: **Let's start with a fun game called Where Are You? I'll call to you from somewhere in the room, and you'll try to find me. I'll call out, "I'm over here!" and you'll answer me by calling, "Where are you?"** Practice calling your phrase and having the children respond. Then say: **The trick is that you'll have to keep your eyes closed. I'll even turn off the lights so you'll really have to search for me in the dark. Are you ready? Remember—no peeking!**

Have children close their eyes. Move to a corner of the room, and call softly, "I'm over here." As children try to find you, keep moving around the room, calling out from different spots. Play for just a few minutes. Then turn on the lights, and have kids sit in a circle.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell what this game was like for you.
- What things might've helped you in this game?
- What is light good for in your life?

Say: **It was hard to find me in the dark. You couldn't really tell where I was, and you didn't know how to get to me. But it's not that way with God at all. He never hides, and he doesn't want us to have to search for him in the dark. He wants us to find him. That's why he sent Jesus to light the way to God. As you listen to the Bible today, be thinking about today's Bible Point: ► JESUS IS GOD.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Who Is Jesus?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 1:1-9, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll learn that ► JESUS IS GOD.**

Ask a child to turn off the lights in the room. Then use a flashlight to read aloud John 1:1-3.

Say: **In this verse, "the Word" is Jesus. That means Jesus was with God, and that he was God, right from the very beginning when God created the world!** Encourage the children to tell things God made.

Say: **That's right—God made everything. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to be our light, too. Let's read about that.** Read aloud John 1:4-5.

Say: **Jesus came to be our light. Without Jesus, our world is dark and full of sin.** Turn out the flashlight for 5 to 10 seconds. Then turn it back on, and say: **Jesus is the light in our lives. He's the special light that John the Baptist told people to get ready for. Listen to what the Bible says about John.** Read aloud John 1:6-9. Then turn on the lights in the room.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like or not like about being in the dark?
- How does a dark room remind you of life without Jesus?
- What might it mean that Jesus is like a light in your life?

Say: **We need light to live, and like that, we need Jesus to really live because ► JESUS IS GOD.** Today we'll learn more about what it means that Jesus is the light of men.

## Bright Lights

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Fun page. Set out scissors, pens, and tape.

Say: **The Bible says that Jesus is the light of men. That means he's a bright light in our lives—he helps us know and understand truth and love. Let's make some bright lights to spread this wonderful news.**



### Who Is Jesus? Supplies

Bible  
flashlight

### Bright Lights Supplies

My Bible Fun  
CD player  
scissors  
1 large paper cup per  
child  
tape  
pens

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Spirit Gives Me  
Life" (Romans 8:10b)  
(track 4)

### Bright Lights Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2  
pages from each My  
Bible fun student book.





Give each child a paper cup. Show children how to use scissors to cut out the bottoms of the cups. Help as needed. Then have kids cut the “Jesus Is Our Light” square from the My Bible Fun page. Show them how to use pens to poke holes through the dots on the word *Jesus* and cut out the sunburst shape on the solid lines. Demonstrate and help kids fold the sunburst shape over the top of the cup and secure it with tape. (Check that the word *Jesus* is readable as you look through the bottom of each cup.)

As children work, play “The Spirit Gives Me Life” (Romans 8:10b) (track 4 on the CD). Lyrics are at the end of this lesson.

Say: **We can use flashlights to shine through these Bright Lights we made. Right now there’s no light in them, but when we add flashlights, they’ll be really cool. Like that, Jesus is a light in our lives and he gives us life and brightness to share with the world.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like and not like about your Bright Lights right now without the flashlight?**
- **Why might you want to add a flashlight to the Bright Light you made?**
- **What does Jesus add to your life?**

Say: **God made us special just the way we are. But like our cups, we also want a light to fill our lives. The Bible says Jesus is that light and ► JESUS IS GOD. Jesus’ light brings us life! Without Jesus, we have no light. Let’s use our cups to help us share about Jesus’ light with others.**

## The True Light

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Turn off the lights, and say: **John 1:4-5 says, “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness.”**

Demonstrate the process as you say: **Each of you will get a turn to use the flashlight. When it comes to you, say the Bible Point, ► “JESUS IS GOD,” and then shine the light through your cup and say, “Jesus is our light.”** Point out that the word *Jesus* will be projected onto the wall. Pass the flashlight around your group so each child has a turn.

When the flashlight comes back to you, open your Bible to John 1:14 and show kids the verse. Say: **Our Key Verse is John 1:14. It says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **This verse is a little hard to understand—even for grown-ups! We already know that “the Word” means Jesus. And when it says the Word became flesh, it means that Jesus came down from heaven and became a man.**

### The True Light Supplies

Bible  
My Bible Fun  
cups from the “Bright  
Lights” activity  
flashlight



Shine the flashlight through a cup and say: **The God who gave us life and light came to earth as a man. Jesus was still God, even when he was a man.**

Continue to shine the flashlight, and say: **The last part of the verse says Jesus made his dwelling among us. A dwelling is a place where you live.**

Put the flashlight and cup aside, and give each child a My Bible Fun page. Point out the “My Dwelling Place” section, and say: **In the space provided, draw a picture of the place you live.** Allow kids time to draw.

Say: **Our verse says Jesus “made his dwelling among us.”** Shine the flashlight through the cup again and say: **► JESUS IS GOD, Jesus gives us life, Jesus fills us with light, and Jesus came to earth to live with us.**

Turn off the flashlight, and say: **Have you ever tried to find something in the dark? That’s how the world would be without Jesus. Without Jesus, we would never be able to understand what God is like. We’d never be able to find our way to God. But Jesus came to light the way for us.** Turn the flashlight on again and shine it through a cup. **Jesus is the light that shines the way to God. And he did all that because he loves us!**

Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse again: **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things did you notice as you shined the flashlight through your cups?
- What are some ways Jesus lights up your life?
- You poked holes so the light could shine through. What can you do so that Jesus’ light shines through you?
- What does it mean for you to be a good dwelling place for Jesus?

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Spreading the Light

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ **Tip** If you used the “Christmas Tree” poster for the “Clean for Jesus” activity in Lesson 1, you can leave the slips of paper on it, as this activity simply decorates the tree even more.



### Spreading the Light Supplies

- My Bible Fun  
scissors  
markers  
tape  
**Teacher Pack**  
“Christmas Tree” poster





### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child his or her My Bible Fun page. Point out the “Spreading the Light” section, and have kids each cut off the square on the cut lines and then cut around the star shape. Read aloud the words inside the star.

Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD, and he came to be our light. That’s good news that we want everyone to hear! This star shape has two lines to write on. The first line is for your name.** Pause as kids write their names on the first line.

Say: **The second line is for someone else’s name. If someone was alone in a dark room, I imagine you’d want to help that person find the light. Well, it’s the same with Jesus’ light. There are lots of people who don’t know how to find God because they haven’t found Jesus to light the way. But we can help them by telling them about Jesus and his light. Think of one person who you can tell about Jesus.** Have each child write the name of a person on the second line.

Hang the “Christmas Tree” poster on the wall. Gather kids in front it, and give each child a piece of tape. Let children take turns taping their stars on the poster. As the children add their stars to the tree, invite them to share who they want to tell about Jesus and why they picked that person.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is Jesus a light in your life?
- How did you choose a person to share with?
- What things can you say to that person?

Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD, and he’s an amazing God. He lights up our lives with love and truth. That’s definitely something we want to tell others about!**

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## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

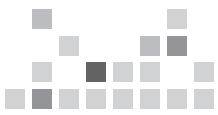
Say: **Let’s think about the fact that ► JESUS IS GOD. As this week’s Daily Challenge, try to follow through on telling the person you wrote on your star about how Jesus is a light in your life.**

If kids have trouble thinking of a way to tell the person about Jesus, suggest that they choose one or more of these three options:

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Fun





- Go on a walk with your friend, and tell him or her that God made everything in the world and he loves us all.
- Bring an extra sandwich to school, and share Jesus' love (and your lunch!) with your friend.
- Teach your friend the Key Verse, and tell him or her that Jesus is God and Jesus loves us.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.

Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD.** Let's remember that Jesus is the life and light of men and follow through on our commitment to tell someone about Jesus' light this week.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' light. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking Jesus for coming to earth to dwell with us and for bringing us life and light. Let each child have a turn to pray for one or two people that he or she wants to bring Jesus' light to.





## Lyrics

### The Spirit Gives Me Life (Romans 8:10b)

God is with me wherever I go.  
 Christ is in me, and I know that I know  
 'Cause he gave his life;  
 He lived and died.

And now the Spirit gives me life,  
 It gives me life, it gives me life  
 Because I have been made right,  
 I've been made right with God.

The Spirit gives me life,  
 It gives me life, it gives me life  
 Because I have been made right,  
 I've been made right with God.  
 Yeah, the Spirit gives me life.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**The Spirit gives me life.  
 The Spirit gives me life.**

"The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

