

# “HE DWELT AMONG US”

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 2 Chapter 1:19-51

### The Beginning of Jesus’ Public Ministry

Very little is recorded about Jesus’ childhood in the scriptures. We are told, “*the Child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him*” **Luke 2:40**. Then the time came for Jesus to begin His public ministry. It was John the Baptist who prepared the people for their introduction to Jesus. His role was “*to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe*” **John 1:7**. **John 1:19-51** records for us the first few days of the public ministry of Christ. As it is today, the Good News of Jesus was proclaimed to groups, as well as to individuals. John the Baptist preached to crowds. Others, like Andrew, witnessed to their friends and family and personally brought them to Jesus.

**DAY #1**      \*Pray before you start your lesson each day\*

\***Note**\*      The “John” referred to in this portion of scripture is John the Baptist.

Read **John 1:19-51**. Then go back and verse by verse look for the basic facts (who, what, when, where, how, and why). As you read this section, you may want to group several verses together to find one or two facts. Be careful to accurately report only the facts.

The following is an example of grouping verses to find one or two facts:

(verses 19,20,21,24) Priests and Levites from Jerusalem (Pharisees) question John  
John is not Christ, Elijah or Prophet

Give a brief title to this section:

**DAY #2    Read John 1:19-28**

**\*\*BACKGROUND\*\*** Jerusalem was and still is today the capital and religious center of the Jewish nation. Jesus was born a Jew, and it was to the Jewish nation that Jesus first came and ministered. John's ministry had stirred a tremendous religious revival among the Jewish people. This caused the religious leadership, the Sanhedrin to take notice. The Sanhedrin was a council of 71 members which included priests, elders of the people, Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees.

**PHARISEES** were teachers of the law. They were very strict and continually added more and more requirements to the law. They were very careful about cleanliness and wouldn't eat with sinners lest they be contaminated. Their prideful loyalty to truth produced arrogance and hypocrisy. Jesus criticized this perversion of the ideal.

**SCRIBES** were professional religious lawyers and copiers of the Law (there were no copy machines). They came to be regarded as the authorities on the Scriptures and therefore exercised a teaching function. Their opinions were usually akin to those of the Pharisees.

**SADDUCEES** were the priestly aristocratic group. They opposed the Pharisees. The Sadducees held only to the written law while the Pharisees put the long development of traditions alongside the written law. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, angels or future punishment and reward.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- 1) **Matthew 3:1-6** gives us more information about John the Baptist. From these verses answer the following:
  - A. Describe his activities.
  - B. What was his lifestyle?
  - C. What was his message (**Matthew 3:2**)?
  - D. Who came to hear John's message, and how did they respond?
  - E. In what way do you think his message of repentance prepared the people to be ready to receive their Savior Jesus?
- 2) For many of the religious leaders, position and authority were all important. John the Baptist had one focus, to point attention to Jesus only, *never* to himself.
  - A. As you read the dialog between John and the Jewish leaders (**John 1:19-27**), what stands out to you that marks his ministry as an example to you?
  - B. In light of John's example, read **Philippians 2:3**. How can wrong motives hinder our service? Give as much explanation as possible.

- 3) From reading **Matthew 15:7-9**, describe how Jesus made it clear that religious “actions” are not what God is looking for. What *is* important to Him?
  
- 4) In **Matthew 3:7-10**, John the Baptist gave some harsh warnings.
  - A. What must accompany repentance?
  
  - B. Look up the word repentance. Explain what “fruits of repentance” means.

***Repentance means not only a heart broken for sin but from sin.***

**DAY #3    Read John 1:29-34**

- 1) In **verse 29**, Jesus is called the “*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*” Because man is sinful, God set up a system in the Law given to Moses whereby man could offer animal sacrifices for his sin. The animals were taken to the priest, slain and the blood was offered in sacrifice. To try to understand why Jesus had to be offered for our sin, we must understand what was lacking in the current system.
  - A. From **Hebrews 10:1-4**, explain why the Law and the sacrifices of the Old Testament needed improvement.
  
  - B. **Hebrews 10:10-14** describes the benefits we have because of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. Explain what they are. Share any additional thoughts or insights.
  
  - C. Some people have a difficult time accepting complete forgiveness for their sins. We often feel guilty and unworthy. It is true, we can never be worthy of the price Christ paid for us. However, we need to accept, by faith, His great love. He forgives us and cleanses us so we can be close to Him and have the kind of relationship He created us for. Read **Hebrews 10:19-22** slowly and carefully. What encouragement do you personally draw from this?
  
  - D. As with any gift, we must first accept it to receive it. Stop and thank God for His great “gift” of forgiveness. Ask Him to help you *confidently accept* His forgiveness and draw close to Him.  
***“Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29***
  
- 2) **John 1:32-34** describes “the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven” and remaining on Jesus. In

the Gospel of Matthew, we are given more details of this occurrence. After reading **Matthew 3:13-17**, briefly tell about what happened as if you were there in the crowd observing.

- 3) Up until this time in history, the Spirit came upon men in the Old Testament for a certain work and then departed. Since the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to “empower,” what do you think “the Spirit remaining on Jesus” would signify to John and the others who saw this happen? (\*Hint\* This occurred at the very beginning of Jesus’ public ministry before He had performed any recorded miracles.)

#### **DAY #4 Read John 1:35-42 THE DISCIPLES**

- 1) In **John 1:35-42**, we read about a man named Andrew who was first a disciple of John the Baptist. The definition of the word “disciple” is pupil or learner. Andrew left to follow Jesus. Most leaders like to have followers. Do you think John was hurt or upset when Andrew left? Why or why not?
- 2) When Jesus first met Simon, he was a simple fisherman from the country. But Jesus saw potential. He saw the man that He knew he could be. Jesus even changed Simon’s name to Peter which means the rock. When Jesus looks at us, He also sees potential and wants to do a great work in and through us. Read **Jeremiah 29:11** and **Philippians 1:6**. Describe the encouragement you personally find in these promises.
- 3) Andrew’s brother, Peter, is mentioned many times in all four Gospels and throughout the rest of the New Testament. Peter even wrote two of the New Testament books (1st and 2nd Peter). Yet, Andrew is seldom mentioned. Many Christians are like Andrew. They never become famous, write books, or get much attention. They just faithfully serve, telling others about Jesus. How does **Hebrews 6:10** encourage those quiet workers in His Kingdom?

*In God’s eyes it is a great thing to do a little thing well.*

- 4) After Peter’s first meeting with Jesus, he went back to work as a fisherman. Read **Luke 5:1-11**, then describe what Jesus meant by His offer to Peter to become a fisher of men (**verse 10**). Share any insights you have on Peter’s response (**verse 11**). Include in your answer the fact that he had to give some things up for what he viewed as greater.

#### **DAY #5 Read John 1:43-51**

**\*Note on Messiah\*** Andrew told Peter, “We have found the Messiah, the Christ.” Messiah is the Hebrew term for “the anointed one.” The Greek word “Christ” comes from *chrío*, “to anoint.” The Messiah or Christ was the One appointed and anointed by God to be the Savior.

- 1) Philip's testimony to Nathanael stressed that Jesus was "the One" who had been promised through Moses and the prophets. Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy is an important validation of Jesus being the Son of God. There are over 300 prophecies foretelling Christ's coming. The odds are 840,000,000,000 (followed by 89 **more** zeros) to one that all these predictions could occur in the case of one person. And yet Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of every prophecy. Read **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** and list some of the prophecies that apply to Christ that are especially meaningful to you.

**DAY #6 Review John 1:35-51**

- 1) Describe what you see in the ministry of John the Baptist that is an example to you. Share how you would desire to follow his model.
  - A. How can you be actively working to "prepare the way" to help others learn about Jesus?
  - B. Do you point others to Jesus as John the Baptist and Andrew did? Share some ways you can do this.
- 2) Are you fully accepting the forgiveness provided by the "Lamb of God?" Read **1 John 1: 9** for further encouragement. If you struggle with guilt and unforgiveness, write out and memorize this scripture. (It is helpful to write the scripture on a 3x5 card to carry with you so you can practice reciting it often.)
- 3) Using Andrew as an example, prayerfully write down the names of three people who you will pray for. Pray that you will have opportunity to bring them to a Bible study, to church or that you will be able to share Jesus with them.

**\*Words to Ponder\*** Jesus told Nathanael, "you will see greater things than these." **John 1:50** Are you living in expectation of seeing the Lord's hand in every aspect of your life? Are you expecting great things as God reveals Himself to you daily? It has been said; "*they that see God's hand in everything, find it easier to put everything in God's hands.*"