JULY3-

True Light



en loved science class. He loved the way his teacher taught every concept. It was always so hands-on and interactive. He literally ran to her class every day instead of milling around in the halls with his friends between classes. He wanted to be the first to help with any class setup responsibilities.

One day, the class was about the beginning of the universe. His teacher, Mrs. Foster, started talking about the Big Bang Theory. In this theory, the world was said to begin through the development of atoms. This conversation was confusing to Ben because he learned a different story about Creation in his Sunday School Class. They learned that God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the human beings and all living things. After class, Ben decided to ask Mrs. Foster about the conflict in the two theories. She told Ben that she did not believe that God existed. Ben was even more confused.

When Ben got home, he talked with his mother about what he had learned in school and how confused he was. His mother shared that there would be many times in his life that he would learn one thing in school and another in church. Many people did not believe in God and so they found other ways to explain the world and how it functioned. When we believe in God and what He says in His Word, then we must believe what He has revealed about the world and how it functions. Ben wrestled with what his mother said all night because he wanted to believe what was right. He decided to believe what the Bible said about Creation because God had been so real in his life thus far. He knew God existed and had given us His Word.

In My Heart

"He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind" (John 1:2–4, NIV).

WORD!

John 1:1-14, NIV—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 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.

SIDEBAR

The Creating Word Becomes Flesh

Throughout the Bible, light represents holiness and darkness represents evil. God and those who follow Him are identified as light (John 8:12; 1 John 1:5; Matthew 5:14-16). The devil and those who follow his ways are identified as darkness (Ephesians 6:12; Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:12-14). Light and darkness do not refer to skin color. In world history, people decided to transfer the concepts of light with whiter skin and darkness with darker skin, thus identifying holiness with whiter skin and evil with darker skin. This perception is evil. Holiness and evilness have nothing to do with skin color. It has everything to do with whom individuals choose to follow. God or Satan.

Living in the Light

- **L**—Light will ultimately win over darkness.
- I —If we believe in Jesus, we can become children of light.
- **G**—God wants us to shine light in the dark places of the world.
- **H**—Help others living in the light.
- **T**—Take time to spend with God so that you can reflect His light.

GOT IT!

A. Jesus Is the Light

Use WORD! to help you unscramble the following words:

1.	Gdenlwli	
2.	Zgceieron	
3.	Ni eht nnngbeiig	
4.	Twnssie	
5.	RdIncieh fo dgo	

B. Witness to the Light

John was a witness to Jesus so that people would believe in Him. We are also witnesses. Write a paragraph on your own to persuade people to believe in Jesus. Only share what you know. Share your paragraph with your classmates and listen to your classmates' thoughts.

JAM SESSION

True Light

The Bible, God's Word, provides truth about life. As Christians, we must believe what God says even when it doesn't not line up with what other people say. Ben decided to believe what the Bible says about Creation. This belief was contrary to how his teacher and many others in the science industry believed. Scripture also states that Jesus was in the beginning with God but also the Son of God that came in the flesh to save the world from sin. There are many people who believe that Jesus was simply a prophet. They do not believe that He has the same divine nature as God. Yet, because the Bible explains that God is both God and man and that He was with God in the beginning, we must put our faith in God and trust what He has revealed.

What does it mean to you that Jesus is both God and man? Have you had a discussion with someone who did not believe the same things about God that you believed? How was the discussion?

JAM ON IT!

Be the Light

Christians try to imitate Jesus in all that they do. How can you be the light like Jesus was? Approach this week with the purpose of showing the light of Christ in every situation. Examine your actions and ask God for forgiveness for the times you haven't reflected Him.

LAST JAM

Walk as children of light as God is light!

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson								