

True Light

What's It All About?

Trevor watched as his 4-year-old sister Leticia sat on Grandma's lap. Grandma had spent the past hour reading book after book to Leticia. "Grandma, let's get my paints. Will you paint me your house by the ocean?" Leticia asked.

"Mom, Leticia acts like she has known Grandma forever, but this is the first time she's even seen Grandma in person," Trevor complained. This was Grandma's first visit to their home in Idaho since Leticia was born.

"That's true, but we send pictures, and we're on Zoom and Facetime every week. You've helped Daddy and me tell Leticia all about Grandma since she was a baby.

The pandemic hit just when we had saved money to fly to Florida and visit Grandma. This time, Grandma decided to come to us, just as she promised. She made this happen," Mama said.

Trevor asked, "Grandma, when you're done painting, will you tell more stories about when Daddy was my age?"

"I'd love to!" Grandma exclaimed. "You look like him when he was your age. Just wait. Oh boy, do I have stories to tell!" Grandma chuckled as she winked at Daddy.

Trevor loved hearing Grandma tell stories of his daddy when he was a boy. Hearing stories on the phone was good but hearing them in person was so much better!

Later that night, Daddy joined Trevor for bedtime prayers. Trevor said, "You know, Daddy, having Grandma here reminds me of our story in Sunday School. The Jewish people knew about God in the Scriptures, but finally, they met Him in the flesh! It must have been exciting to be a disciple and talk to Jesus in person."

"Grandma promised she'd come here someday," Dad said. "Now, Trevor, you can watch your little sister sitting on Grandma's lap, painting together, and talking in person."

If you were Trevor and Leticia, what would you want to do with Grandma when she visited? What would you have liked most about walking with Jesus in real life?



Learning From God

The Gospel of John was written by one of Jesus' 12 apostles. John wants us to know our faith is in Christ, the Son of God. He is the true Messiah and the Savior of the world. John begins by stating a fact. The Word or Logos, was delivered when time began at Creation. When you read Genesis, you learn that "In the beginning, God created." How did He create the world? He spoke the world into existence. John says the same Word that spoke forth creation became flesh and lived among people.

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.

[Vv. 1–3—The Word coexisted with God. They are one and the same.]

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.

[Vv. 4–5—The Word gave life. Life gave light.]

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—

[Vv. 9–12—The purpose of the Word was to bring the light of salvation to the world.]

13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

[V. 13—You can't inherit salvation from a good family; from heritage as a member of a religion or group; nor from doing good works.]

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.

[V. 14—The Word was God from the beginning of time. God became a person and lived among people. People saw God's glory through Jesus.]

What I Have Learned

Answer the following questions:

1.	When did the Word first appear with God?
2.	What did the Word create?
3.	What does the Light do?

4.	Who	was	sent b	y God	to with	ess for	the Light?
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5. What did t	ne Word become?	A

Keep In Mind

"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).

Choosing What's Best

Talk with another Junior. Based on today's Scripture, what would you tell these friends? Circle the statement for salvation.

- 1. Jessie bragged, "Sure, I'm a Christian. My greatgrandpa helped build this church."
- 2. Mary said, "My friend said only people who were members of her church group would go to heaven. Is this true?"
- 3. Michael said, "I read my Bible each day and pray before every meal. I'm better than most of the kids in my school. God sees everything I do. I'll keep doing this all my life, and I'll go to heaven."
- 4. Eva said, "The Bible says to believe in Jesus Christ. I asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life. I'm not perfect, but I believe salvation is a gift from God. I try do the right things because I want to please Him."

If you have not asked Jesus to be your Savior, you can pray and ask Him now to be your Lord. Tell a teacher about your decision to become a Christian.

Doing My Part

The Holy Spirit lives inside you if you believe in Jesus Christ and asked Him to be your Lord. This week, watch what you think, say, do, and don't do. Consider how you relate to people. You don't "act good" to win salvation. Your actions reflect what God has already done in your heart. Make a conscious effort to let the light of Christ shine through your thoughts, words, and actions this week.