

General Church Education



The Lord's Word

John 1:1-5, 14

Lesson 2

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE LORD'S WORD

JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Today's story comes from the first chapter of John. These few verses tell who the Lord is and why He came into the world. The Lord, living in the world, was in fact the physical expression of the same Divine Love and Wisdom that had been guiding people from the beginning of time. He was the Word on earth.

In His mercy, the Lord has given us His Word so that He can speak directly to each of us, telling every individual just what we need to know in order to live the life that leads to heaven. The Word contains the only source of genuine goodness as well as genuine truth.

Without the miraculous birth of the Lord, we would be lost in the darkness of our own self-centered natures. Human life would have ended because no one would have had the spiritual freedom to choose the life of heaven (*True Christian Religion* 118).

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord has given us the Word so that He can lead us to the life of heaven. He counts on parents and teachers to take a leading role in teaching children about Him. This includes making a habit of reading the stories of the Word to them.
- We can create an atmosphere that encourages children to become fluent readers. Then they will be able, on their own, to turn to the Lord's Word and hear Divine truth in the voice of the Lord as He seeks to draw them to heaven.

FROM THE WRITINGS

By the sense of the letter of the Word there is conjunction with the Lord, and association with the angels. There is conjunction with the Lord by means of the Word because the Word treats of Him alone; and by it the Lord is the All in all things of the Word, and He is called the Word. There is conjunction in the sense of the letter because the Word in that sense is in its fullness, its sanctity and its power. *Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 62

Let a person read the Word every day, one or two chapters, and learn from a teacher, and from preachings the dogmas of his religion; and especially let him learn that God is one, that the Lord is the God of heaven and earth (John 3:35; 17:2; Matthew 9:27; 28:18), that the Word is holy, that there is a heaven and a hell, and that there is a life after death. *Apocalypse Explained* 803

THE LORD'S WORD

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Word is the Lord speaking to us.

The Lord gave us the Word so that we can get to know Him and learn how to follow Him.

In our first story we learned that there is one Lord who has many names. Can you remember some of the names of the Lord from our last lesson? We also learned that the Lord is our Heavenly Father who wants to be near us to bless us.

Today we will learn that one way the Lord helps us and blesses us is by giving us His Word. This is very important, because without the Word, our minds would be in darkness. We would not know anything about the way to heaven. We also would know nothing about how to show the Lord that we love Him. When we read and listen to the Word the Lord is teaching us and He can be near us and lead us towards His blessings in heaven.

The Lord creates everything. It is the Lord who gives us life on this earth and in heaven. In times long ago, people could talk with Him and with His angels. The Lord gave them His Word directly. This is how they learned about the Lord's love. It also is how they learned what they needed to do to go to heaven.



Gradually, people forgot to pay attention to what the Lord told them to do. When people stopped listening directly to the Lord they soon forgot to obey Him. When that happened, the Lord was very sad because He wants so much for people to be happy in heaven. That is why He gave the written Word. When the Word was written down, people could read it. They could still learn about the way to heaven.

In today's story from the book of John, you will hear about the "light of men." This tells about a time when people listened to the Lord. The "darkness" tells about a time when people no longer remembered to listen, and forgot how to live good lives.

When we learn something true, it is like a light turning on in our minds. The Lord's Word is the light of our minds now, just as it was long ago for the most ancient people. Now we can "listen" to the Lord by reading His Word. It is the true things in the Lord's *written* Word that give light to the mind. We learn about His great love for every person from stories in the Word. We also learn the way to heaven from the truth that He teaches us in the Word.

Read John 1:1-5 and 14.



DISCUSSION

- We get to know somebody by listening to what they say and by paying attention to what they do. For example, a mother feeds her baby, she hugs and kisses him, speaks softly to him, and tells her baby of her love. The baby counts on her to protect him and provide him with every thing that he needs. Her baby *knows* his mother. Can you think of anyone you know about by what they say and do? ***(Possible answers - fathers, teachers, policemen, robbers.)***
- What do they do that tells you what kind of person they are? ***(Answers will vary.)***
- We get to know the Lord by reading the stories about what He said and did long, long ago. Some of these stories are in the Old Testament from before He was born on earth. Some are in the New Testament, the part of the Word that tells about the Lord's life on earth. There is another part of the Word called the Writings for the New Church or the Heavenly Doctrine. You will learn about this part of the Word later this year. We will be reading stories from all three parts of the Word.
- Do you know some stories from the Word? If you do, can you think of anything the Lord did that tells you something about Him? ***(Possible examples - The Lord blessed the children/He loves children; creation story/the Lord makes everything; Noah's Ark/the Lord can save people who obey Him; The Lord healed many people while in the world/He wants to heal and help everyone.)***
- The first part of today's story says that "The Word was God," and later, that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The important thing to know is that the Lord is telling us that He is the one God of heaven and earth who has given us the Word. This is why the Word is holy. This is why we treat it so carefully. The Word is the Lord's way of talking with us and being with us.
- Sometimes when someone gives us something special, we like to do something in return to say "Thank you." The Lord's Word is a special gift to us. Can you think of some things that you might do for the Lord to say "Thank you" to Him? ***(Possible examples might include - read the Word, find a special place to keep the Word, have family worship, go to church, pray to Him, keep His commandments, be kind to others.)***

THE LORD'S WORD | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.

John 1:14

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Songs

- *Father in Heaven Who Gave Us the Word*
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-father-in-heaven-who-gave-us-the-word/>
- *The Light Shines*
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-light-shines/>

Projects

- First Words Project
- Picture to color

Additional Activities

- Look inside a copy of the Word and see the "books" of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Do you recognize any of the names of the books of the Word when you hear them read?
- Create a special place for the Word. If there already is a special place for the Word, think of a way to make it more beautiful. You may want to use things from nature like shells, flowers or rocks.

First Words Project

This project helps children learn the letters of important words found in this lesson.

Supplies needed

- page of letters to spell LORD, WORD, WORSHIP, CHURCH
- pencil
- scissors

Directions

1. Using scissors, cut out the rectangles containing the letters.
2. Practice spelling "LORD." Then practice spelling "WORD." Compare the two words. How are they the same? How are they different?
3. Cut out the rest of the letters and practice spelling "WORSHIP" and "CHURCH."
4. What do you think is the most important and valuable book that people can read? There are many good books, but the Word of the LORD is the most important of all. When we learn from the Word, we are learning how to live a heavenly life.

L O R D

W O R D

W O R S H I P

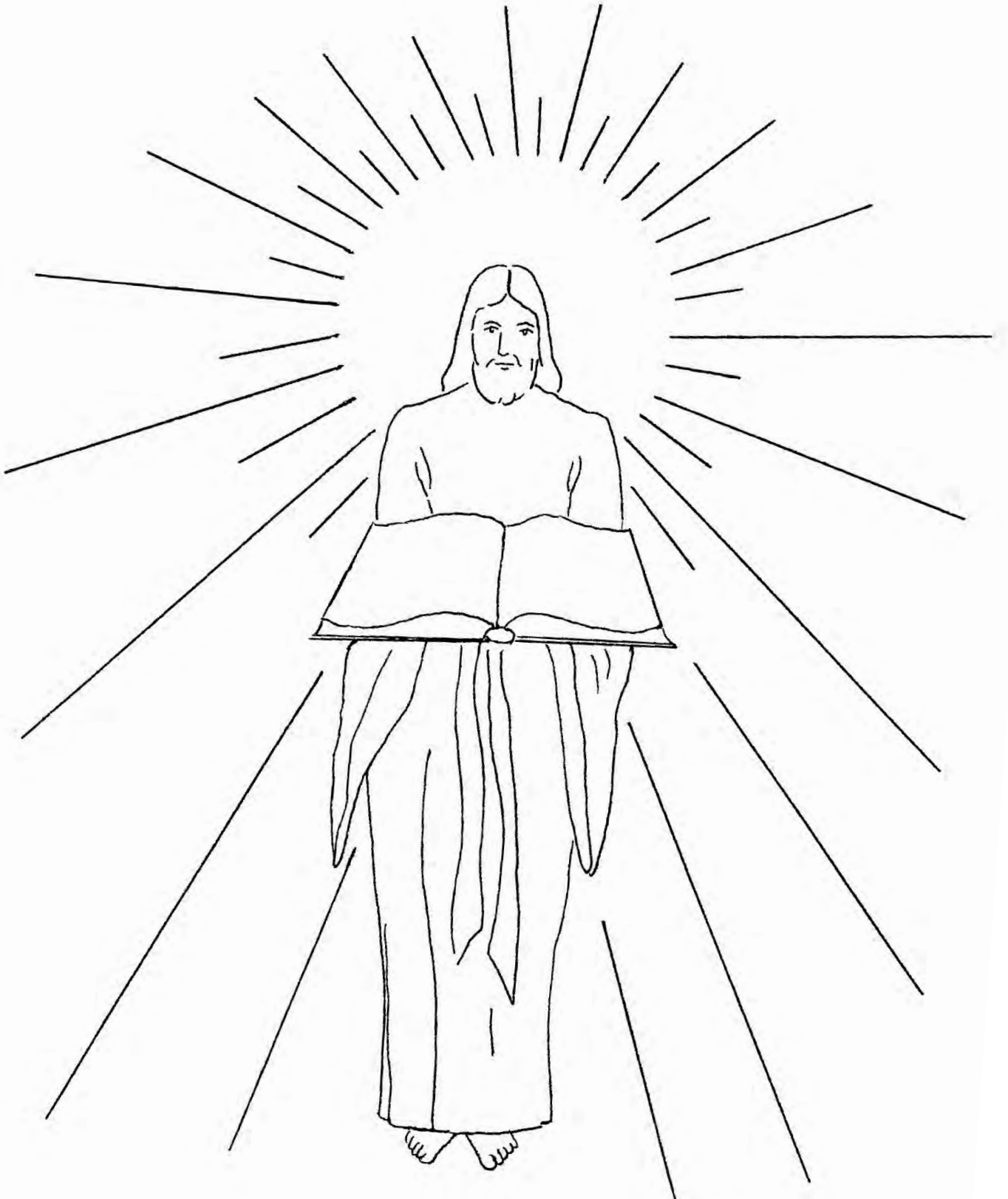
C H U R C H

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Recitation Award | Lesson 2

