

Program: SS Panel 2024 4 Q

Quarterly title: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson Title: #9 The Source of Life

For Lesson Dates: *November 23-29, 2024*

Section title: Wednesday - In Him Was Life

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and this color and font = John Dinzey notes

Lesson 9

**November 23–29*

The Source of Life

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *John 1:4; John 10:10; John 1:12, 13; John 6:61–68; Num.13:23–33; Matt. 4:1–4.*

Memory Text: " 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' " (*John 14:6, NKJV*).

*****READ*****

In the gospel of John, when asked who He was, Jesus answered with the term that designates deity. "I AM" was an unmistakable reference to the Lord Himself, who had appeared to Moses in the burning bush. " 'I AM WHO I AM,' " He said to Moses (*Exod. 3:14*). And this same God, the "I AM," then "became

flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (*John 1:14, NKJV*).

The theme "I AM" threads throughout John. This week's memory verse reflects that theme: " 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' " (*John 14:6, NKJV*). The "I AM" is the Light of the world, the Bread of Life, the Gate or the Door of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, and the True Vine.

*****READ*****

This week continues with the revelation of God as given us in John. We will also more fully explore the flip side of things, in which, despite the powerful evidence for Jesus as the Messiah, some rejected Him. We will study this idea for two reasons: to avoid the same mistake, but also to consider how we might be able to reach out to those in danger of making that mistake, as well.

****Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, November 30.***

SUNDAY

November 24

In Him Was Life

*****READ*****

In John 1:1, the apostle clearly states that Jesus is God, the divine Son. Consequently, in John 1:4—"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (*NKJV*)—the reference to *life* here has to be divine life, underived eternal self-existence. Because He has life within Himself, He can lay down His life and take it again (*John 10:17*). And, because He has life within, He can give life to whom He will (*John 5:21; compare with John 14:19*).

Of Christ it is written, “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” He is the fountain of life. Obedience to Him is the life-giving power that gladdens the soul. Hvn 173.1

READ

This term *life* (zoē) appears 36 times in the Gospel of John, about 25 percent of the uses in the New Testament. In John 1:4, 5, besides referring to the source of life on our planet, the word is also linked to salvation. Throughout the rest of John, this idea of life (zoē) is most often expressed as *everlasting life*, the promise of salvation (see *John 3:15, 16, 36; John 4:14, 36; John 6:27, 40, 47, 54, 68; John 10:27, 28*). Thus, the One who gave life at creation is the same One who brings salvation, eternal life, to a lost world.

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. “I lay it down of myself” (John 10:18), He said. **In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as his personal Saviour.** “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). This is the open fountain of life for the world.. 1SM 296.2

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

READ

Why did Jesus come to this earth? *John 1:29, John 3:16, John 6:40, John 10:10, John 12:27.*

John 1:29 ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 6:40 ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 10:10 ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

John 12:27 ²⁷ “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

*****READ*****

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (*John 3:14, 15, NKJV*).

Just as the bronze serpent took the place of the Israelites who had been bitten by serpents, so Jesus took our place, we who have been struck down by sin. He took the penalty that was ours so that we might have the life that was His.

Christ also desires that we have life and have it more abundantly (*John 10:10*). Thus, for “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (*John 1:12, 13, NKJV*).

Christ came to reveal the Father to us. For, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (*John 1:18, NKJV*). By seeing the character of Jesus, we can see the character of the Father.

What can we learn from the life of Jesus about the character of the Father? Why is this revelation such good news?