

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR WISDOM?

Many people consider themselves wise. In fact, a large majority of people consider their mental ability to be “above average”! James, as he writes to first-century Christians and to us, asks simply, “Who is wise and understanding among you?” (James 3:13a). Then he gives God’s definitive answer to that question. Write James 3:13b here as the answer:



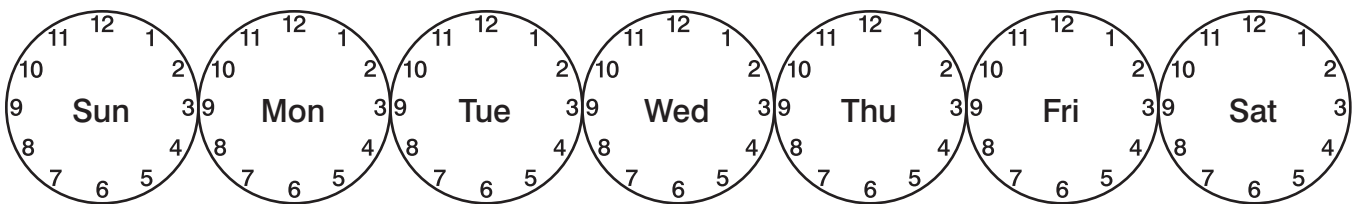
What surprises you about James’s answer? Jot your ideas here:

James 3:17 goes on to identify some of the key characteristics of heavenly wisdom. List them here, and then give yourself a grade (A, B, C, D, F) for each one. What is your plan to “raise your grade”?

Characteristic	My Grade	My Plan to Improve

MAKING TIME TO LISTEN

Proverbs 8:33 gives the quick and sure answer to the question, “How can I be wise?” But gaining that wisdom involves setting aside time to listen to God’s instruction. Draw hands on each of the following seven clocks to indicate the time you will listen to God’s words of wisdom each day. Consider reading the written Word, listening to recorded segments, and/or public occasions of biblical instruction.

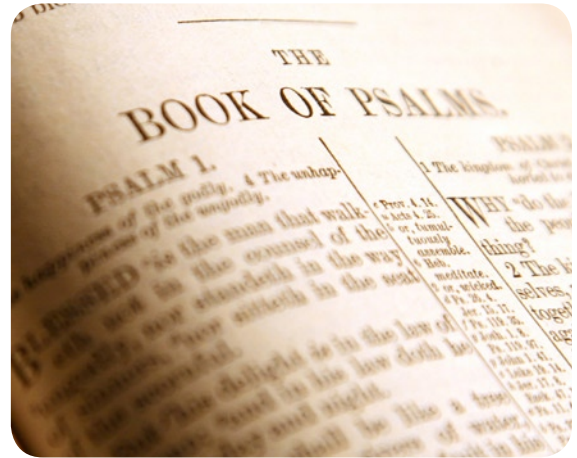


== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 1, “Wisdom’s Origin” (Proverbs 8:22-35, NIV) ==

1:1

First verses of biblical books are notable, as in today's text of John 1:1-14. Find and read each of the following first verses. Briefly note the subject matter for each.

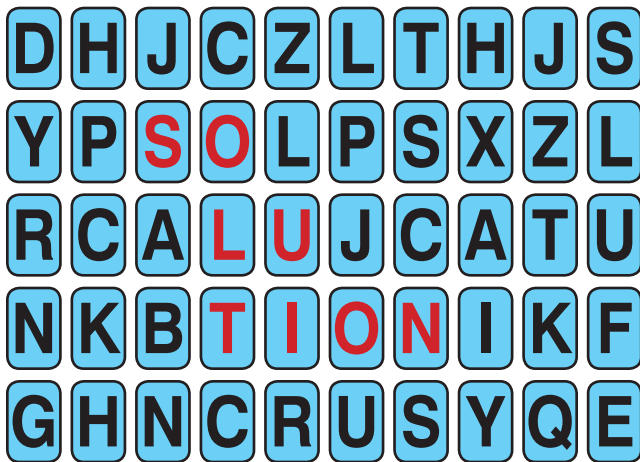
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|------------------|------------------|
| Genesis 1:1 | Lamentations 1:1 |
| Leviticus 1:1 | Ezekiel 1:1 |
| Joshua 1:1 | Habakkuk 1:1 |
| Ruth 1:1 | Matthew 1:1 |
| 2 Samuel 1:1 | Luke 1:1 |
| 1 Kings 1:1 | John 1:1 |
| 2 Chronicles 1:1 | Hebrews 1:1 |
| Ezra 1:1 | 1 John 1:1 |
| Psalms 1:1 | Revelation 1:1 |



Circle the ones that mention or imply God as Creator. Underline the ones in which you see some allusion or references to the coming Messiah. **Highlight** one that impresses you enough to challenge you to memorize it.

WORD UP

This is a lesson about a Word, the most important Word in any language. Decipher each of the following words that are significant ideas in today's text of John 1:1-14.



1. AACINNINORT
2. GHILT
3. BEIGGINNN
4. ACEINORT
5. CDEHILNR
6. EFHLS
7. BEEIILV
8. DOLRW
9. YROLG
10. EINSSTW

Which would you say is the most significant word in the list? Why?

GLORY!

As John begins his Gospel account, he affirms the origin of his faith: “We have seen his glory, the one-of-a-kind glory straight from his equality with the Father, a glory that is seen in his grace and truth” (paraphrase from John 1:14b).

On the left side, rate these expressions of Jesus’ glory as to the effect each has on your faith; 1 for little effect, 5 for great effect. Then skim through John’s Gospel for at least one example of each of these five elements of his glory; write a reference to the right, for each.

_____ Jesus’ power over elements of natural earth science _____

_____ Jesus’ power over human physical weakness _____

_____ Jesus’ divine knowledge of individuals _____

_____ The unique nature of Jesus’ teaching _____

_____ Jesus’ power over death _____

WEDDING SURPRISE!

Most weddings are so carefully planned and rehearsed that “surprises” are not supposed to happen. But surprises do occur. By the size of the **S** you write on each line following, estimate “the size of the surprise” involved in each element of today’s text from John 2:1-12.



___ Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding.

___ Jesus’ mother approached him to solve the host’s dilemma.

___ Jesus answered his mother kindly but pointedly.

___ Jesus’ mother told the servants to do whatever he said, even though it appears her request was rebuffed.

___ The servants did what Jesus directed, even though it was a lot of work.

___ The wedding manager didn’t plan well enough.

___ The water was changed into wine of high quality.

___ John reports no overall reaction by the wedding guests to the miracle.

___ There is no record of Jesus personally taking the wine he created to “the master of the banquet” to make sure he (Jesus) got the credit.

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

Some have called John 3:16 “the gospel in a nutshell.” Each of the following significant questions is answered by that verse. Take a look at John 3:16 and write the phrase that answers each question below.

1. Why did God work to save us?
2. What did God do?
3. Who has access to God’s salvation?
4. What are the two possible outcomes for people?

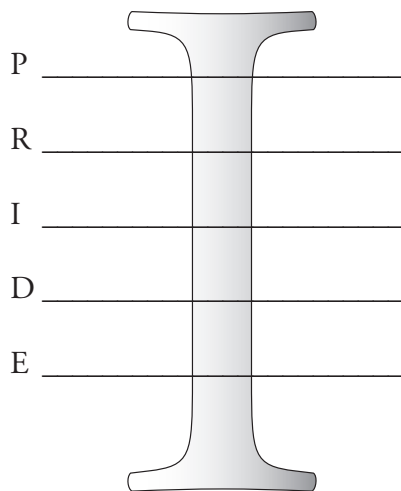
Bonus Question:

5. How do the two graphic images on this page represent the basic life and eternity choice?



NICODEMUS, WITH A CAPITAL I

Nicodemus probably carried the pride inherent in being a Pharisee. Jesus immediately attacked that by affirming things that Nicodemus did not understand. The foolish questions in John 3:4 allowed Jesus to teach him, though Nicodemus may have thought himself to be well taught and in no need of correction. Use the letters on the left to identify five characteristics of pride that can interfere with trusting in Jesus. Use the letters on the right for actions or qualities that show one’s submission to the lordship of Christ.



B _____

E _____

L _____

I _____

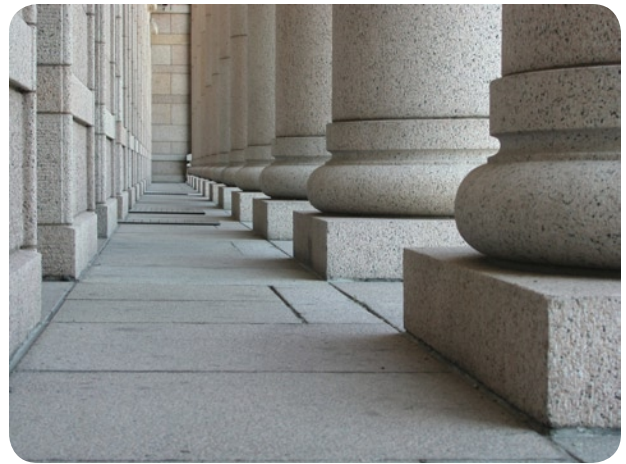
E _____

F _____

Compare and discuss your choices with other class members.

POWER STRUGGLE






















Today's text of John 18:28-38 reveals part of a power struggle between the Jewish leaders and Pilate. Answer each of these questions about this struggle for power.



1. How are the Jewish leaders sensing a loss of power?
2. In what way do the Jewish leaders challenge Pilate's power with their requests?
3. How does Pilate demonstrate his own power?
4. What power do the Jewish leaders admit that they lack?
5. What sort of power does Jesus claim while talking to Pilate, if any?
6. What does Jesus affirm regarding the power of the truth?
7. How does Jesus, who has all power, demonstrate that power before Pilate, if at all?

ALL EARS

Jesus said to Pilate (and to us), "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37). Each day this week, identify occasions you "heard the voice of Jesus" and obeyed it. For each such occasion, check off one of the ears below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
						
						

RESURRECTION SURPRISE!

Read each of the following texts to find significant truths Jesus repeatedly tried to teach His disciples. Summarize each.



Matthew 16:21

Matthew 20:17-19

Mark 8:31, 32

Luke 18:31-34

Now read John 20:9. What is surprising about that? How do you explain the disciples' lack of understanding?

See Luke 24:45-48 for a final resolution of the matter.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

When the first-century followers of Jesus first came to the tomb where his crucified body had been laid, what did they see? Write their observations on the stone to the right. Consider John, Peter, and Mary Magdalene.

On the space representing the tomb opening, write what *you* see.



IF ONLY . . .

Paul's eloquent statement on the importance of the resurrection of Christ in 1 Corinthians 15 deserves our reflection. There we read of the most important "if only" of life (v. 19). Select a verse from that chapter that you think is the most significant. Write it here, and commit yourself to memorizing it.

== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 6, "Jesus Lives!" (John 20:1-10, 19, 20, NIV) ==

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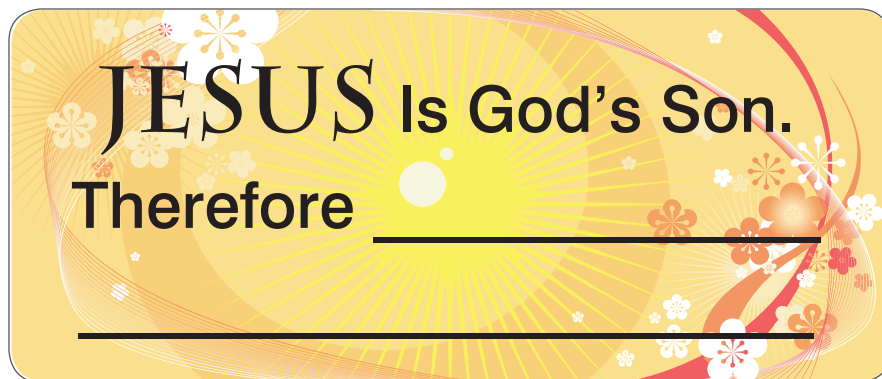
TEMPLE (AND CHURCH BUILDING?) PURITY

Some Christians wonder what implications Jesus’ cleansing of the temple have for the way we use our twenty-first-century church buildings, if any. Write your thoughts about the ancient and modern significance of the concepts listed. One example is given to get you started.

Key concepts of John 2:13-22	First-century “temple significance”	Twenty-first-century “church-building significance” (if any)
Passover (v. 13)	<i>The annual Passover celebration required purity (2 Chronicles 30)</i>	
Selling of livestock (v. 14)		
Money changing (vv. 14, 15)		
Quotation of Psalm 69:9 (v. 17)		
Miraculous sign (v. 18)		
Jesus’ body (v. 21)		
Fulfilled prophecy (v. 22)		

COMPLETE THE BUMPER STICKER

Today’s lesson reminds us of the authority of Jesus as the Son of God. If you wished to stimulate the thinking of the driver behind you about Jesus, what additional line would you put on this bumper sticker?



== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 7, “Temple Is Cleansed” (John 2:13-22, NIV) ==

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CHANGE OF PLANS

The Samaritan woman of John 4 was so excited about what she had learned that she abandoned her original task in order to hurry and tell others what had happened. Looking back on her encounter with Jesus, complete these thoughts that might have been running through her head at that time.



1. The social barriers to our conversation were many, but Jesus . . .

2. I misunderstood what he meant by “living water” until . . .

3. He changed my views of God and worship, so now I believe that . . .

THINKING THIS THROUGH

Lessons from the master teacher’s life should always make us wonder, “What is he teaching me today?” Make the thought completions from the Change of Plans activity above your own as you complete the following affirmations:

1. I can overcome social and cultural barriers to witnessing for Christ by . . .

2. I realize that I still have lots to learn about Christ and his message, so I will remain teachable by . . .

3. Jesus has changed my views of God and worship, so to worship in spirit and truth I now make sure that I . . .



A BLIND MAN SINGING!

Imagine the joy of a man who had been blind from birth suddenly being able to see! He might burst into joyful song to praise his healer. By filling in the blanks below, you will discover an appropriate song for this special occasion. Use the numbered clues to discover the hymn's title.

A. $\frac{13}{13}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{12}{12}$

A. _____ saw a man . . .

B. $\frac{15}{15}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{11}{11}$

B. . . . who was _____ from birth.

C. $\frac{11}{11}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{17}{17}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{18}{18}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{12}{12}$

C. The _____ asked the question about the causes of the man's blindness.

D. $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{10}{10}$

D. Jesus told the disciples that _____ the man's nor the parents' sin caused the blindness.

E. $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{6}{6}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{1}{1}$

E. Jesus said the _____ is coming . . .

F. $\frac{9}{9}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{19}{19}$

F. . . . when no one can _____.

G. $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{8}{8}$

G. Jesus is the light _____ the world.

H. $\frac{6}{6}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{11}{11}$

H. To heal the blind man, Jesus spat on the _____.

$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{3}{3}$		
$\frac{4}{4}$	$\frac{5}{5}$	$\frac{6}{6}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{1}{1}$
	$\frac{7}{7}$	$\frac{8}{8}$		
$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{3}{3}$		
$\frac{9}{9}$	$\frac{7}{7}$	$\frac{10}{10}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	$\frac{11}{11}$
	$\frac{5}{5}$	$\frac{12}{12}$		
$\frac{13}{13}$	$\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{12}{12}$	$\frac{14}{14}$	$\frac{12}{12}$



MY SONG!

Since the Son of God has healed you of the lifelong disability of sin, what songs or lines of songs come to mind as praise? Write three below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A SEVEN-DAY DEVOTIONAL

In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses the phrase “I am the . . .” in seven ways to illustrate the nature of his person and work. Each day in the coming week, use one of the following in your devotional time to meditate on the significance to you.

Significance for me!

Monday— John 6:35, 41, 48, 51: “I am the _____”

Tuesday— John 8:12; 9:5: “I am the _____”

Wednesday— John 10:7, 9: “I am the _____”

Thursday— John 10:11, 14: “I am the _____”

Friday— John 11:25: “I am the _____”

Saturday— John 14:6: “I am the _____”

Sunday— John 15:1: “I am the _____”

TWO KINDS OF BENEVOLENCE

Today’s “bread of life” lesson follows very close in time to Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5,000. Jesus modeled both physical and spiritual benevolence, and we are to do likewise. List several of the ways that your church expresses these two. Which of the two areas is most in need of attention?



MY CHURCH’S PHYSICAL BENEVOLENCE

MY CHURCH’S SPIRITUAL BENEVOLENCE

== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 10, “The Bread of Life” (John 6:22-35, NIV) ==

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PUZZLES TO PONDER

Sometimes we find puzzling statements in Scripture. These statements often make us dig deeper to discover what God wants us to know or desires us to do. Read the following paraphrased statements made by Jesus and rank them from “most puzzling” (1) to “least puzzling” (5).



- _____ John 10:8. “All” who came before Jesus were thieves.
- _____ John 10:9. A saved person will come in and go out and find pasture.
- _____ John 10:13. A hired hand doesn’t really care about the sheep.
- _____ John 10:16. Jesus has other sheep of a different flock.
- _____ John 10: 17, 18. No one takes Jesus’ life from him without his consent.

Now it is time to learn from the statement you found most puzzling. Use a commentary (from your personal or church library or from the Internet) to find an interpretation or explanation of that puzzling statement. The explanation is _____.

PROMISES AND PEACE

Jesus’ teaching about the good shepherd in John 10 brings to mind Psalm 23. In both passages we find wonderful promises and great peace flowing from God’s heart to us. Read through our printed text and Psalm 23. List below the promises or assurances God makes and the lines that offer you a sense of peace and well-being.



Wonderful Promises to Me

The Peace from My Good Shepherd

KEY WORDS FROM A MIRACLE

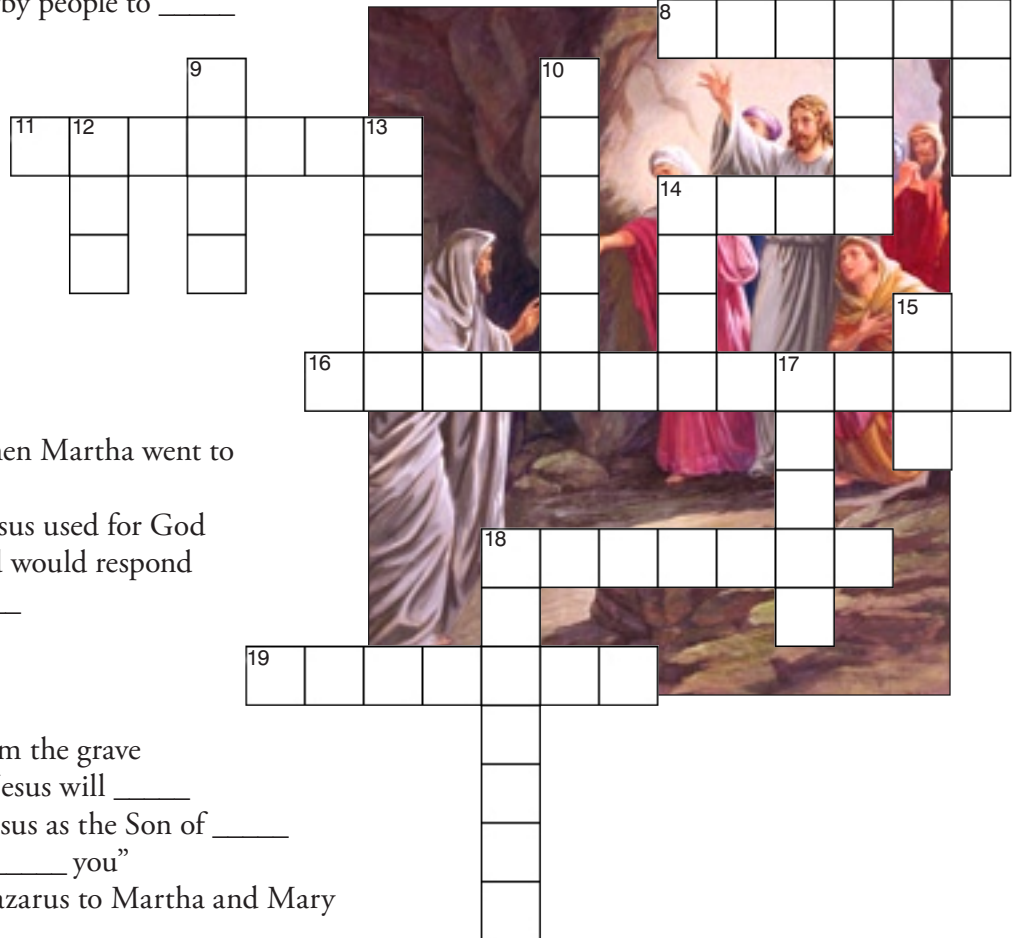
Search today's text of John 11:17-27, 41-44 for the answers.

Across

2. Martha's brother did this
4. The type of voice Jesus used at the miracle
7. Whoever believes in Jesus will never _____
8. Martha called Jesus the _____
11. Who had been in the tomb for four days?
14. Jesus claimed to be the resurrection and the _____
16. Martha thought Jesus was talking about the final _____
18. A small town about two miles from Jerusalem
19. Jewish friends offered this to Mary and Martha

Down

1. Jesus promised Martha her brother would _____ again
3. Responding to Jesus' command, the _____ will come out of their graves
4. Martha used this title when speaking to Jesus
5. Jesus wanted the nearby people to _____



6. Mary's sister
9. Who stayed home when Martha went to meet Jesus?
10. The endearing title Jesus used for God
12. Martha was sure God would respond if Jesus would _____
13. This was removed from the grave
14. Whoever believes in Jesus will _____
15. Martha recognized Jesus as the Son of _____
17. Jesus said, "Father, I _____ you"
18. The relationship of Lazarus to Martha and Mary

ENCOURAGING WORDS AND PHRASES

John 14:1-14 is packed with encouraging words and phrases! Below each of these images, write how the accompanying Scripture encourages you. You may wish to illustrate or share a circumstance where or when this word or phrase was especially helpful in your life.

The Road Map
 “The way” (v. 6)



A Worldview
 “The truth” (v. 6)



Purposeful Existence
 “The life” (v. 6)



The Future
 “Many rooms” (v. 2)



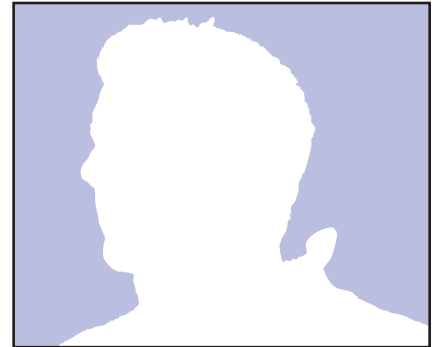
Our Jesus
 “I am in the father” (v. 10)



Our Privilege
 “Ask” (vv. 13, 14)



FACEBOOK CAPTION



Believers need to reflect their faith, worldview, priorities, and future whenever possible. Write a caption above that would be appropriate to place in your profile on Facebook or another social networking Internet site. The caption should reflect a concept or line taken from John 14:1-14.

Now, explain why you chose this caption.

Lesson 2 Word Up

1. *incarnation*; 2. *light*; 3. *beginning*; 4. *creation*; 5. *children*;
6. *flesh*; 7. *believe*; 8. *world*; 9. *glory*; 10. *witness*

Lesson 4 Gospel in a Nutshell

1. He loved the world; 2. Gave his Son; 3. Anyone (“whosoever”); 4. Perish or have everlasting life; 5. The “I” image looks to self; the cross image looks to Christ.

Lesson 4 Nicodemus, with a Capital I

Though a variety of responses are possible, here is a sampling for each letter. For PRIDE: *Pretentious, Rebellious, Impatient, Dogmatic, Egotistic*. For BELIEF: *Baptized, Emptied, Loving, Indebted, Expectant, Faithful*

Lesson 5 Power Struggle

1. By having to bring Jesus to the pagan governor, Pilate. [Bonus: John 11:48]
2. By implying that Pilate has no choice but to impose capital punishment.
3. By requesting a list of charges and by announcing that any charges are baseless.
4. Their lack of power to impose capital punishment.
5. The power inherent with having truth.
6. Everyone on the side of truth listens to it.
7. Jesus exercised the power of truth.

Lesson 7 Temple (and Church Building?) Purity

[The following are possible responses for the “temple significance” column; a wide variety of responses are possible for the “church-building significance” column, depending on local sensitivities]

- Passover: The annual Passover celebration required purity (2 Chronicles 30)
- Selling of livestock: The presence of so many noisy animals detracted from the dignity that was to characterize the temple setting
- Money changing: As with the selling of livestock, noisy commerce detracted from the dignity that was to characterize the temple setting
- Quotation of Psalm 69:9: Concern for pure worship attracts opposition to the point that Jesus eventually will be killed (“consumes me”) by those opponents
- Miraculous Sign: Issue of doubt regarding Jesus’ authority with regard to the temple
- Jesus’ Body: A test regarding whether those who had guardianship of the temple had spiritual perception
- Fulfilled Prophecy: Proof of Jesus’ authority to purify the temple would come at his resurrection

Lesson 9 A Blind Man Singing!

- A. Jesus; B. blind; C. disciples; D. neither; E. night; F. work; G. of; H. ground. Song title: “The Light of the World Is Jesus”

Lesson 12 Key Words from a Miracle

Across: 2. died; 4. loud; 7. die; 8. Christ; 11. Lazarus; 14. life; 16. resurrection; 18. Bethany; 19. comfort.

Down: 1. rise; 3. dead; 4. Lord; 5. believe; 6. Martha; 9. Mary; 10. Father; 12. ask; 13. stone; 14. live; 15. God; 17. thank; 18. brother.