

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
Commentary by Michael Sigler
March 11, 2012

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

Key verse: “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John 1:14a).

Here is the astonishing Good News that changes everything: In Jesus Christ, God “became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14a, *The Message*).

“The Word,” John’s name for Jesus Christ, was with God “in the beginning.” That means, not just when the beginning began, but always. There was no time when The Word was not! What’s more, The Word not only was always and forever *with* God, The Word always and forever “was God” (1:1-2). This is the One—Jesus Christ, God the Son, The Word—this is the One who became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

What difference does His coming make?

Think for a moment about human life—from start to finish, the good and the bad. A helpless infant. The joys and challenges of childhood and youth. Love. Hurt. Play. Work. Days and days of “eight-to-five.” Victories. Defeats. Years rolling by much faster than you could have imagined. Wrinkles. Gray hair. More days go by. White sheets. Hospital smells. Beeping monitors. It’s over? This is it? This is life?!

No, John would tell us. The Word became flesh. I am an eyewitness. I walked with Him. I stood at the cross when He died. I worshipped at His feet when He rose from the grave. And here is what everyone needs to know: “In Him was life” (1:4a). That is why I wrote this gospel. “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

What difference does His coming make?

Step out of a truck on a dirt road in the forest. Hear the truck drive away. Then walk carefully through the darkness, before daylight, into the woods, to sit beside a tree. You may not be a deer hunter, but you can imagine the scene.

Slowly, very slowly, your eyes begin to adjust to the darkness. But all you can see are strange, dark shapes—until the sun begins to come up. Then suddenly everything changes. Instead of unidentifiable shadows, you see trees and thickets, vines and leaves. Black and gray turns to vivid color—the reds and yellows of late fall leaves, the greens of low-lying shrubs. And at the dawning of the sun, the woods come alive with the song of birds. In a matter of minutes, all is changed.

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What a difference light makes. Light reveals. Light brings life. Light shows the way. Into our dark world and into the darkness of our lives, The Word came. "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men" (1:4).

"The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood." What difference does it make? We can have *life*, life abundant and eternal. We can walk in *light*, with purpose, direction, and a clear path "home." We can, if we will *believe* and if we will *receive* (1:12).

Thanks be to God.

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