

March 11 – Read John 1:1-9. What Jesus taught and what he did are tied to inseparably to who he is. John shows Jesus as fully human and fully God. Although Jesus took upon himself full humanity and lives as a man, he never ceased to be the eternal God who has always existed, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the source of eternal life. What does John mean by “the Word”? The Word in Hebrew scripture was an agent of creation, the source of God’s message to his people through the prophets, and God’s law, his standard of holiness. In Greek philosophy, the Word was the principle of reason that governed the world, or the thought still in the mind, while in Hebrew thought, the Word was another expression for God. To Jewish readers, to say this man Jesus “was God” was blasphemous. To Greek readers, “Word became human” was unthinkable. To John, this new understanding of the Word was the Good News of Jesus Christ.

March 12. Read John 1:10-18. All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God. Through faith in Christ, his new birth changes us from the inside out – rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives. Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parents’ family. Being born of God makes you spiritually alive and places you in God’s family. When “the Word became human,” Christ became the perfect teacher – in Jesus’ life we see how God things and therefore how we should think. Christ also became the perfect example – as a model of what we are to become, he show us how to live and gives us the power to live that way. Finally, Christ became the perfect sacrifice – a sacrifice for all sins, and his death satisfied God’s requirements for the removal of sin.

March 13. Read John 1:19-28. The Pharisees were a group that both John the Baptist and Jesus regularly denounced. Many of them outwardly obeyed God’s law to look pious, while inwardly their hearts were filled with pride and greed. The Pharisees believed their own oral traditions were just as important as God’s inspired Word. They had four options regarded the John who was baptizing. He was 1) the Prophet foretold by Moses, 2) Elijah, 3) the Messiah, or 4) false prophet. John denied 1, 2 and 3. John simply referred to himself as someone who was preparing a way. The Pharisees wanted to know who John was, John wanted them to know who Jesus was.

March 14. Read John 1:29-34. Although John was well known and attracted large crowds, he was content for Jesus to take a higher place. This is true humility, the basis for greatness in preaching, teaching, or any other work we do for Christ. When you are content to do what God wants you to do and let Jesus Christ be honored for it, God will do great things through you. John’s job was to point people to Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Today people are looking for someone to give them security in an insecure world. Our job is to point them to Christ and to show that his the one whom they seek.

March 15. Read John 1:35-50. These first disciples used different names for Jesus: Lamb of God, Rabbi, Messiah, Son of God and King of Israel. As they got to know Jesus, their appreciation for him grew. The more time we spend getting to know Christ, the more we will understand and appreciate who he is. We may be drawn to him for his teaching, but we will come to know him as the Son of God. Although these disciples made this verbal shift in a few days, they would not fully understand Jesus until three years later. What they so easily professed had to be worked out in experience. We may find that words of faith come easily, but deep appreciation for Christ comes with living by faith. Notice the first thing Andrew and Philip did when they encountered Jesus, believed and followed. What will you do?

Adapted from Life Application Study Bible