

WEEK ONE DAY TWO

What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

That's a big question, isn't it? I mean, hopefully, you have a long list of awesome things people have done for you. But the funny thing is that pretty much anything anyone does for us is pretty great. Someone sharing their dessert with you at lunch? Makes your day. Someone driving from several hours away to visit you in the hospital? It also makes your day! It doesn't matter if it's big or small. Part of being human is how we're wired to respond to people showing us they care. We love it when people do nice things for us.

Take a moment and read John 1:1-13. This is one of the coolest passages in the Bible. Why? There's so much going on! First of all, you see John making a case for the Trinity right out of the gate. See, John was taking some creative license by calling Jesus "the Word." The Greek word *logos*, which means "word," is used to describe HOW God communicates. Jesus was the fullest expression of God's message of love and redemption for humankind. For this, and a few other reasons, John uses "the Word" to describe Jesus.

Yesterday you read Genesis 1:1-5. Genesis 1:1, the first verse in the Bible, says, "In the beginning, God . . ." John echoes that same sentiment with his words here in John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word . . ." As part of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), Jesus was present and active at creation. That in itself should blow our minds. Jesus is God. Jesus was actively engaged in the creation of the world. And, ages later, He would become even more active in creation when He became a human being and lived on our earth, teaching us about the Kingdom of Heaven, and ultimately, through His death and resurrection, purchasing a right relationship with God for all who would believe. This is powerful. It is the most powerful truth ever. But that's not our focus for today.

For today's focus, pay close attention to verses 12-13. Here we see Jesus' mission and purpose explained. Jesus came to earth to make a way back to God for everyone who would ever believe in Him. Sin would no longer be a barrier between God and people. Jesus had conquered the darkness. Through His faithful death on the cross, He paid for the sins of all humankind.

In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus came to earth and went to the cross because He loves us. Period. When we consider the most amazing things one person would do for another, this act of sacrifice by Jesus stands out as the most selfless gift ever given. Have you taken the time to appreciate the God who cared so much for you that He came to earth to save you?



Questions to Consider

1. In your own words, describe the gift that Jesus gives to all who believe in Him.

2. What role does your gratitude play in your faith relationship with Jesus?

3. What does it mean to you that because of His great love for you, Jesus gave you the privilege of becoming a child of God?

4. Today, spend some time in prayer thanking Jesus, the Light of the World, for His great compassion for you. Thank Him that He gives you life, not only here on this earth but for eternity with Him.