

Lesson #4-C2***Preparing the Way for the Messiah***

John 1:19-34

**Key Verse:**

And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.
John 1:34

The Point:

The author of John shows us what it looks like to give testimony to God's Word made flesh.

Unit Theme (December 31 - January 21):

Encountering the Messiah

Connecting the Dots

Discovering how John connects the dots to Jesus.

You will need:

- † String of Christmas lights
- † Optional: extension cord



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Before worship:

1. Remove one light from the string of Christmas lights so that the string does not light up. You will need to use the type of lights (in series) in which one missing bulb causes the whole string to go out. Test this ahead of time.
2. Be sure you can plug in the string of lights (using an extension cord if necessary) in a place where all worshippers can see it as you are speaking.
3. Test to make sure that adding back the missing light bulb restores light to the string.

Connecting the Dots (Continued)

During worship:

1. Read John 1:19-34 or invite a volunteer to do so.
2. Hold up the string of Christmas lights (with one bulb missing).
3. **These Christmas lights remind me a little bit of the prophets. The prophets were messengers from God. It is as though they were little lights, one after the other, illuminating a little bit more of God's character, and God's promises. In fact, many of the prophets spoke of God's promise to send a Messiah.**
4. **This string of Christmas lights, even though there were lots of little lights, just like there were lots of prophets, it seemed hard to get the whole picture figured out. God's people were waiting for the Messiah, but it was difficult to see how all these little lights worked together. Let's try to plug this in.**
5. Plug in the string of lights. It should not light due to the missing bulb.
6. **It was like there was a missing piece.**
7. Find the spot where there is a missing light bulb.
8. **Aha! There is a missing piece. This is where John comes in. The priests and the Levites thought he was maybe one of the prophets who had come before, perhaps Moses or Elijah. They even asked him if he was the Messiah, but John quickly responded that he was not. Still, John had a very specific job.**
9. **He was the one who announced that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus was the one that everyone had been waiting for. John did not know that it was Jesus who was the Messiah until he saw the Spirit descending like a dove and landing on Jesus. It was like a light bulb went off, and he knew Jesus was the one.**
10. **John was a final piece to the puzzle of messengers about Jesus, like this last little light bulb helping to point to Jesus.**
11. Put the missing light bulb into the string of lights. The string should now light.
12. **There we go! John was the one who helped connect all these other dots (point to the lights on the strings), all the promises and the prophets, and to reveal that Jesus was the one they had all been waiting for. John helped people see that. In some ways, it was like he turned the light on, so people would know that Jesus was the promised one, the light of the world.**
13. **John's role was to help other people see Jesus. But you know, that is our role too. We can be like John and connect the dots to help people see who Jesus is. We can testify like John did and help reveal God's love. In fact, we can be like little lights that shine Jesus' love into the world.**
14. **God had a very important job for John, to prepare the way for Jesus, to help people see that Jesus was God's son. God has that same very important job for each of us!**