

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

The Word Made Flesh.

John 1: 1-18.

FOUR books in the Bible, written by four different men, tell us the story of Jesus' life. They are called Gospels. The one we are now to study was written by John, who wrote after all the others, and tells many things they did not,—especially the talks Jesus had with His disciples. He wrote his Gospel to help you, and me, and everybody, believe that Jesus was the Son of God. This John was not John the Baptist who went before Jesus to prepare the way.

The title of our lesson, taken from the first chapter of this Gospel, is "The Word made Flesh," that is, Jesus, who is God, became a man; that Christ was in heaven before He came to this earth. "In the beginning," that is, before all creation, He was with God. His life did not commence, as ours does, when He was born of the virgin Mary. He always was. There never was a time when Christ was not living.

When Christ was with God, He was equal with God. Angels are not equal with God. They are inferior to Him. But Christ was not inferior to God in any sense. His nature was the same nature as that of God the Father himself. He thought it not robbery to be equal with God. We learn from verses 1-4 that Christ always was in heaven with God, that He was equal with God, and that by Him all things were brought into being. Then, in v. 14, we learn that this Christ became "flesh." That means that He came down from heaven. He took our nature—was a little Baby—grew up as a Boy—then became a Man. And why? That He might save us. If you look into this chapter very carefully, you will find 18 different titles of Jesus. There are two of them to which the lesson specially directs attention: The Life—The Light. It does not say *a life—a light*, as though there were others in whom Life is to be secured or Light drawn. He stands alone. No true life, no true light, apart from Jesus. So when you read these sentences—the Word—the Life—the Light—remember it means Jesus.

Have you received Jesus? Are you a child of God? If not, you may become one at once, by accepting Jesus as your own Life and Light.

The First Disciples.

John 1: 35-51.

ONCE there was a good man who preached to a great many people. His name was John the Baptist. There were some men who liked to be with him, and these men were called his disciples.

One day he was standing in the country with two of his disciples, when he saw a man walking along a little way off. When John saw this man he said to his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God!" What did John mean? Was it a lamb he saw? No, it was a man. But I will tell you why he called Him a Lamb. Before Jesus came, God's people were obliged to offer sacrifices for sin. Every morning and evening a lamb must be slain. These sacrifices taught them how dreadful a thing sin was, and were also

picture-lessons of the Saviour, who was coming to die for the sins of the world. That is what John the Baptist meant when he cried, "*Behold the Lamb of God.*"

The Son of God was like a sweet and gentle lamb, and was willing to die for us, though He had done no sin.

One of these two disciples was called Andrew.

If you had been Andrew, what would you have done when you heard John say, "Behold the Lamb of God?" I think I

hear you answer, "I would have gone after that gentle Lamb." That is what Andrew did, and the other disciple too. The two disciples went after the Son of God.

As soon as Jesus saw Simon, He knew who he was without being told. Jesus knows the name of every one. He knows your name, and your father's name, and your mother's name.

In this lesson we also learn about another disciple named Philip, who begged his friend Nathaniel to come. At first, Nathaniel only scoffed, but when he heard Jesus talk, he, too, said, "Thou art the Son of God." Can we follow Jesus as these people did? Yes; it is simply *believing, loving, and obeying* Him.

"OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

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"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD!"