

GOD IN ACTION (Lesson 3)



ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together

We will...

- deepen our spiritual life
- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means

We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources

**God in Action Bible Study Manuel produced by Captain Michael Ramsay at the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, September 2012.*

In this Bible Study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various scriptures and ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

Lesson 3: John 1:1-18

We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and coequal in power and glory.

Background and context: John, a first century fisherman, was probably the author of this letter. John and his brother James (The sons of Zebedee) actually dropped their work mid-day and left their dad to run the family business without them to follow Jesus. John was known in the Gospel of John as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’ and had a prominent role in serving Jesus as a disciple and later as an apostle.

What is the Word?

Have you ever tried to solve a word puzzle? Solve for the puzzle this word: In each section below answer the question, “What is the Word?”

1. John 1:1-3:

The Word:

- was in the beginning
- was with God
- was God

a. What (Who) is the Word?

2. John 1:3-5:

The Word:

- All things were made with this word
- Life was in this word
 - Light was in this life
 - This life was the light of man
 - This light shines in the darkness but is not understood

a. What (Who) is the Word?

b. What (Who) is the Light?

3. John 1:6-8:

The man:

- ❑ Was from God
- ❑ Was named John
- ❑ Witness to testify about the light
 - People could believe through the light
- ❑ Was not the light

b. What (Who) is the Man?

c. What (Who) is the Light?

4. John 1:9-13:

The Light

- ❑ Gives light to everyone
- ❑ Is coming into the world
- ❑ Made the world
- ❑ Was in the world
 - The world did not recognize him
- ❑ He came to that which was his
 - His own did not recognize him
- ❑ Gives the right to become children of God to Those who recognize and receive him
 - These children are born of God not people

c. What (Who) is the Light?

5. John 1:14:

The Word

- ❑ Was in the world
- ❑ Became flesh
- ❑ Dwelled (lived) among us
- ❑ We have seen the Word's glory
 - The Word's glory is the glory of the only begotten Son (therefore the Word is the Son)
 - Came from the Father
 - Full of grace and truth

a. What (Who) is the Word?

d. Who is the Son?

6. John 1:14:

The Son

- ❑ John testified about Him
- ❑ Out of His fullness we receive grace
- ❑ Grace and truth came through Him (the Law came through Moses)
- ❑ He is Jesus Christ
- ❑ No one has ever seen God except Him
- ❑ He is the only begotten Son
- ❑ He is God himself
- ❑ He is in closest relationship with God
- ❑ He has made God known

d. Who is the Son?

7. Summary:

- a. What (Who) is the Word?**

- b. What (Who) is the Man?**

- c. What (Who) is the Light?**

- d. Who is the Son?**

What is the relationship between Jesus Christ and God?

Read Genesis 1:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 1:26-37: What do we know about the relationship between God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit?

Scriptures for further exploration: Job 33:4; Luke 1: 30-33, 46-55; 4. John 14:16-26; 15:26, 16:12-15; 20:22-23; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:6.

Further Reading:

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Ramsay, Captain Michael. 2011 *John 1:1-18: Word Puzzles*. Presented to the Swift Current Corps, (10 April). <http://sheepspeaks.blogspot.ca/2011/04/john-11-18-word-puzzles.html>

Salvation Army, The. 1998. *Salvation Story: Salvationist Handbook of Doctrine* London: The Salvation Army.

Sloyan, Gerard. 1988. 'John' in *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*: Atlanta, Georgia: John Knox Press.

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Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.