

# LIVING WORD GALENA

## 2026 SERMON JOURNAL

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*Series: That You May Believe A Walk Through the  
Gospel of John*

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31 (ESV)

## Week 1 - In the Beginning Was the Word

**Date:** January 4, 2026

**Theme:** The Eternal Word - Jesus is God from the beginning, the Creator and Sustainer of life and light.

**Goal:** To restore awe and reverence for the divinity of Christ and deepen faith in Him as the eternal Word who brings life to all.

### Scripture

John 1:1-5 (ESV)

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2 He was in the beginning with God.*

*3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

*5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

## Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Word	Logos (λόγος)	More than 'word' it signifies divine reason, creative order, and revelation. In Greek philosophy, logos was the rational principle of the universe; John shows the Logos is a Person, Jesus.
Life	Zōē (ζωή)	Not mere biological existence (bios), but divine, eternal life, the very life of God shared with humanity.
Light	Phōs (φῶς)	Symbol of divine truth and purity that exposes and overcomes darkness. Echoes Genesis 1:3 and points to Jesus as the new creation.
Darkness	Skotia (σκοτία)	Represents spiritual ignorance and evil that cannot defeat Christ's light. Tied to the fall narrative (Genesis 3).

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
In the beginning	Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created..."	Colossians 1:15-17 All things created through Christ.
Word and Creation	Psalm 33:6 "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made."	Hebrews 1:2 "Through whom also he created the world."
Light and Darkness	Isaiah 9:2 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."	John 8:12 "I am the light of the world."
Life	Genesis 2:7 God breathed life into Adam.	John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life."

## Theme Overview

John begins not with a manger or a miracle but with eternity itself. Jesus is no mere man or teacher. He is God in the flesh, the eternal Word who spoke creation into being. The same divine voice that said, "Let there be light," has now entered the darkness to bring new creation. Awe and reverence fill the heart when we realize that the One who made the stars also came to dwell among us.

## Reflect & Respond

## Take Notes from the Message:

## Reflection Prompts:

- What stirs your sense of awe as you read John's opening verses?
- How does it change your view of Jesus to know He was not created but the Creator?
- Where do you see the light of Christ breaking through the darkness in your own life?

## Week 2 - The True Light and the Witness

**Date:** January 11, 2026

**Theme:** The True Light and the Witness. John the Baptist points to Jesus, the true Light who brings adoption into the family of God.

**Goal:** To see how faith receives the light of Christ, and to recognize that belief makes us children of God not by birth, but by grace.

### Scripture

John 1:6-13 (ESV)

*6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

*7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

*8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

*10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*

*11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

*12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

*13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

## Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Witness	Martyria (μαρτυρία)	Means 'testimony' or 'evidence.' John the Baptist's role is not self-focused but Christ-directed, a model for all believers.
Light	Phōs (φῶς)	The same word used in verses 4-5, now identified as 'the true light' that reveals God to all and invites faith.
Receive	Lambanō (λαμβάνω)	To take hold of, to welcome signifies personal acceptance of Christ, not just awareness of Him.
Believe	Pisteuō (πιστεύω)	To trust, rely upon - faith that results in relationship and transformation, not mere agreement.
Children	Tekna (τέκνα)	Literally 'born ones.' Highlights the new birth and divine family given by grace, not by natural descent.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
Witness	Isaiah 40:3 'A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD.'	John 1:23 John identifies himself as that voice.
Light to the nations	Isaiah 49:6 'I will make you as a light for the nations.'	Luke 2:32 'A light for revelation to the Gentiles.'
Rejected by his own	Psalm 118:22 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'	Matthew 21:42 Jesus applies this to Himself.
Children of God	Deuteronomy 14:1 'You are sons of the LORD your God.'	Romans 8:14-17 Believers adopted through the Spirit as God's children.

## Theme Overview

John introduces the first human character in his Gospel, John the Baptist, whose entire mission is to point others toward Jesus. The 'true light' has entered a dark world, yet not all recognize or receive Him. But to those who do, an astonishing promise unfolds: they become God's children. This new birth is not earned, inherited, or willed. It is entirely the gift of God's grace through faith in Christ.

## Reflect & Respond

## Take Notes from the Message:

## Reflection Prompts:

- What does it mean to *bear witness* to Jesus in your own life?
- How do you personally *receive* the light of Christ daily?
- Where have you seen the grace of God making you more aware of your identity as His child?

## Week 3 - The Word Became Flesh

**Date:** January 18, 2026

**Theme:** The Word Became Flesh. God takes on human form in Jesus, revealing His glory and grace to all who believe.

**Goal:** To help believers marvel at the incarnation and see the eternal God stepping into time and space to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.

### Scripture

John 1:14-28 (ESV)

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)*

*16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*

*17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

*18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

*19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”*

*20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”*

*21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”*

*22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”*

*23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”*

*24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)*  
*25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"*  
*26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,*  
*27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."*  
*28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

## Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Became	Ginomai (γίνομαι)	Means 'to become' or 'to take on being.' Highlights the mystery of incarnation God becoming human.
Flesh	Sarx (σάρξ)	Refers to human nature in its fullness. The divine Word did not merely appear human but truly took on flesh.
Dwelt	Skēnoō (σκηνώω)	Means 'to tabernacle' or 'pitch a tent.' Points to God's presence dwelling with His people, echoing Exodus 25:8.
Grace	Charis (χάρις)	The unearned favor of God a gift overflowing in Jesus Christ.
Truth	Alētheia (ἀλήθεια)	Not abstract fact, but reality as revealed in God's faithfulness and character through Christ.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
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Tabernacle	Exodus 25:8 'Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.'	Revelation 21:3 'The dwelling place of God is with man.'
Grace and Truth	Exodus 34:6 God revealed as 'abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.'	Romans 1:17 Grace and truth fulfilled in Jesus.
Witness of John	Isaiah 40:3 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'	John 1:23 John the Baptist quotes this passage.

## Theme Overview

Here the eternal Word steps into history. God has not remained distant but came near full of grace and truth. John the Baptist's humility contrasts the glory of Christ: even the greatest prophet confesses he is unworthy to untie Jesus' sandals. Through the incarnation, we see God's heart unveiled. It's been called *grace upon grace* overflowing to all who believe.

## Reflect & Respond

## Reflection Prompts:

- What amazes you most about the Word becoming flesh?
- How do you experience God *dwelling* with you in daily life?
- How can humility like John's shape your witness to others?

## Week 4 - Behold the Lamb of God

**Date:** January 25, 2026

**Theme:** Behold the Lamb of God. Jesus is revealed as the sacrificial Lamb who takes away the world's sin and calls disciples to follow Him.

**Goal:** To see Jesus as the promised Lamb of God and understand that true discipleship begins with a simple invitation: 'Come and see.'

### Scripture

John 1:29-51 (ESV)

*29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'*

*31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."*

*32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.*

*33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*

*34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

*35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,*

*36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"*

*37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*

*38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means*

*Teacher), “where are you staying?”*

*39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.*

*40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.*

*41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).*

*42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).*

*43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”*

*44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

*45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

*46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”*

*47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”*

*48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”*

*49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”*

*50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”*

*51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*

## Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Lamb	Amnos (ἀμνός)	A sacrificial lamb evokes Passover and Isaiah 53's suffering servant, fulfilled in Jesus.
Take away	Airō (αἴρω)	To lift up, bear, or remove. Indicates Jesus bearing the sin of the world upon Himself.
Spirit	Pneuma (πνεῦμα)	Represents the Holy Spirit descending and remaining on Jesus, marking Him as the Anointed One.
Follow	Akouloutheō (ἀκολουθέω)	Means 'to walk the same road' discipleship as relationship and imitation.
See	Horaō (όράω)	To perceive or discern a spiritual insight that leads to faith, not just physical sight.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
Lamb of God	Exodus 12:5-13 The Passover lamb's blood saves Israel.	1 Peter 1:19 Jesus as the spotless Lamb.
Spirit Descends	Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD rests upon Him.	Matthew 3:16 The Spirit descends on Jesus at baptism.
Come and See	Psalm 66:5 'Come and see what God has done.'	John 4:29 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.'
Jacob's Ladder	Genesis 28:12 Angels ascending and descending on Jacob's ladder.	John 1:51 Jesus fulfills this as the bridge between heaven and earth.

## Theme Overview

John the Baptist identifies Jesus with the powerful declaration, 'Behold, the Lamb of God!' This passage transitions from revelation to relationship as disciples begin to follow Jesus and invite others to do the same. From 'Come and see' to 'Follow Me,' we witness the heart of Christian discipleship: encountering the Savior and bringing others along.

## Reflect & Respond

Take Notes from the Message:

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## Reflection Prompts:

- What does it mean for you personally that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
- How can you live out the invitation *come and see* in your relationships this week?
- Where do you see Jesus revealing greater things in your life and faith journey?

## Week 5 - "The First Sign: Jesus at Cana"

**Date:** February 1, 2026

**Theme:** Jesus' First Miracle Revealing His Glory.

**Goal:** To see how Jesus begins his public ministry by manifesting his glory and inviting belief.

### Scripture

John 2:1-11 (ESV)

*1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 2 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 3 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 4 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 5 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 6 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 7 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 8 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

### Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
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Sign	Sēmeion (σημεῖον)	John's term for miracle — emphasizes revelation of Jesus' identity.
Glory	Doxa (δόξα)	The visible manifestation of God's presence; Jesus reveals divine glory in the sign.
Believe	Pisteuō (πιστεύω)	Faith response by the disciples; believing based on witness to Jesus' signs.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
Water to wine	Exodus 7:20 — Moses' sign turning water to blood (contrast judgment vs. blessing).	Luke 22:20 — The cup and the new covenant in Jesus' blood.
Feast imagery	Isaiah 25:6 — The LORD prepares a feast with rich food and well-aged wine.	Revelation 19:9 — The marriage supper of the Lamb.
New creation	Genesis 1 — God's creative word brings fullness.	John 1:3 — The Word brings life and makes all things.

## Theme Overview

Jesus' first sign at Cana announces the inauguration of the messianic age not with judgement but with abundant joy. By transforming water for purification into rich wine, Jesus shows that the new covenant overflows with grace. This sign invites

the disciples (and us) to believe and to see Jesus as the source of true life and joy.

## Reflect & Respond

## Take Notes from the Message:

## Reflection Prompts:

- Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding for his first sign?
- What does this miracle reveal about the nature of Jesus' kingdom?
- What 'empty jars' in your life need Jesus' transforming touch?

## Week 6 - "Zeal for His Father's House"

**Date:** February 8, 2026

**Theme:** Jesus Cleanses the Temple — Zeal for true worship and the revelation of his authority.

**Goal:** To see how Jesus' heart for worship leads us to true worship.

### Scripture

John 2:12-25 (ESV)

*12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days. 13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 14 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' 15 His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' 16 So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' 17 The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' 18 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 19 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. 20 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 21 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all*

*people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. 23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*

### Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Temple	Naos (ναός)	Refers to the inner sanctuary - points to Jesus as the true dwelling of God.
Zeal	Zēlos (ζῆλος)	Fervent devotion to God's honor; Jesus' zeal fulfills Psalm 69:9.
Raise up	Egeirō (έγειρω)	To raise; foreshadows the resurrection as the vindication of Jesus' authority.

### Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
Zeal for your house	Psalm 69:9 - 'Zeal for your house has consumed me.'	Romans 15:3 - Christ bore reproach for God's glory.
Temple purification	Malachi 3:1-3 - The Lord comes to purify his temple.	Hebrews 9:11-12 - Christ enters the perfect tent and offers his blood once for all.

Resurrection sign	Isaiah 53:10 - He shall see his offspring after suffering.	John 20:1-18 - The raised Lord reveals the meaning of his words.
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## Theme Overview

Jesus' cleansing of the temple demonstrates his authority over religious systems and redirects worship to its rightful center - himself. His words about destroying the temple and raising it in three days point forward to his death and resurrection, revealing that he is the true meeting place between God and humanity.

## Reflect & Respond

## Take Notes from the Message:

### **Reflection Prompts:**

- What does Jesus' zeal for the Father's house teach us about holiness and worship?
- How does the temple-cleansing passage point to the cross and resurrection?
- In what ways might Jesus be calling you to reorder your heart toward true worship?

## Week 7 - You Must Be Born Again

**Date:** February 15, 2026

**Theme:** New Birth from Above. The Work of the Spirit and the Love of God.

**Goal:** To understand salvation as God's work of grace rebirth through the Spirit and faith in the Son.

### Scripture

John 3:1-21 (ESV)

*1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from*

*heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."*

### Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Born Again	Anōthen (ἄνωθεν)	Means 'from above' or 'again' - spiritual rebirth through the Spirit's power.
Spirit	Pneuma (πνεῦμα)	Can mean both 'wind' and 'spirit'; Jesus uses the wordplay to describe the mysterious work of the Spirit.
Eternal Life	Zōē Aiōnios (ζωὴ αἰώνιος)	Life that comes from God not just endless, but divine in quality.
Love	Agapaō (ἀγαπάω)	Self-giving, sacrificial love central to God's character in salvation.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
New Birth	Ezekiel 36:25-27 Promise of water and Spirit renewal.	Titus 3:5 - 'He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.'
Lifted Up	Numbers 21:8-9 Moses lifts up the bronze serpent for healing.	John 12:32 - 'When I am lifted up... I will draw all people to myself.'
God's Love	Genesis 22 - The father gives his only son.	Romans 5:8 - 'God shows his love for us... Christ died for us.'

## Theme Overview

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night, seeking understanding, and hears the shocking truth: entry into God's kingdom requires new birth not human effort, but divine grace. Through the Spirit's renewing work, believers receive new life, and through the cross, God's love is revealed in its fullness. This passage captures the heart of the Gospel: God loves, gives, saves, and transforms.

## Reflect & Respond

## Take Notes from the Message:

## Reflection Prompts:

- What does it mean for you personally to be 'born from above'?
- How does John 3:16 reshape your view of God's love?
- Where do you sense the Spirit at work transforming your heart?

## Week 8 - He Must Increase

**Date:** February 22, 2026

**Theme:** The Joy of Decreasing Finding Fulfillment in Christ's Glory.

**Goal:** To understand true humility and joy in pointing others to Jesus rather than ourselves.

### Scripture

John 3:22-36 (ESV)

*22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison). 25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease." 31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit*

*without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."*

## Greek Word Focus

Word	Greek	Meaning & Significance
Increase	Auxanō (αὔξανω)	To grow or become greater; John finds joy in Jesus' rising prominence.
Joy	Chara (χαρά)	Delight rooted in seeing God's purposes fulfilled.
Witness	Martyria (μαρτυρία)	Testimony — John's role is to bear faithful witness to Jesus.

## Cross References

Theme	Old Testament Connection	New Testament Echo
Bridegroom imagery	Isaiah 62:5 - 'As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride...'	Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ loves the church as His bride.
Joy of humility	Proverbs 15:33 'Humility comes before honor.'	Philippians 2:3-11 Christ humbled Himself to be exalted.
Obedience and life	Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - 'Choose life, that you and your offspring may live.'	1 John 5:11-12 - 'He who has the Son has life.'

## Theme Overview

John the Baptist's joy comes from knowing his purpose: to point others to Jesus. When Christ is glorified, John's joy is complete. His humble declaration, 'He must increase, but I

must decrease,' summarizes true discipleship joyfully giving Christ first place.

## Reflect & Respond

### Take Notes from the Message:

## Reflection Prompts:

- How do you see humility and joy working together in John's words?
- Where might God be inviting you to 'decrease' so that Jesus is more visible?
- How can you bear witness to Christ's greatness this week?