

**CATEGORY**

Doctrine

**TITLE**

Light in the Darkness

**REFERENCE**

John 1:1–5

• orange merit •

# John

## LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 1



### FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn that God's light living within us allows us to overcome anything in the world.

**KEY POINT**

With God's help, I will be a light for God in the dark world.

**KEY VERSE**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:5**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

**REFLECT ANSWERS**

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Answers may vary. You may wish to discuss these verses: Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9,13; 1 John 1:9.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary but comments should include these: Pray, refuse to give up, read the Bible, ask others to pray, quote Scriptures related to the problem you are facing.



### MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Make sure paper and pencils are available

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 1



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

With God’s help, I will be a light for God in the dark world.

### KEY VERSE

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:5**



## READ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1–5)

The Book of Genesis says God created the world. He spoke the universe into existence. He created all the stars, the planets, the plants, the animals, and finally the people.

John tells us that Jesus was with God when the world was created. Jesus was so active in creation that every single thing God created was made through Jesus. John calls Jesus “the Word” and says that the Word is God—they are one and the same. Jesus is God, just as the Father is God.

Life on the earth began through Christ. Hebrews

1:2 tells us that it was Jesus “through whom also he made the universe.” Verse 3 says that Jesus sustains all things by His powerful word. In other words, the universe began through Christ and He maintains it.

After humans sinned, Jesus came to earth as a baby. He became the Light of the world. When it is dark in the house and you are trying to find your way around, a light shows you the way to go. In the same way, Jesus became the Light to the world to show us the way to go so that we won’t fall into sin.

But the darkness in the world tried to destroy the light Jesus provided. People on the side of darkness arrested Jesus. They put Him on trial and killed Him. They thought they had won. They thought the light God provided had been destroyed forever. Instead, Jesus rose from the dead and proved that darkness cannot overcome the light.

Then God went a step farther. He put the Spirit

of Christ into those who follow Jesus! Now, we can show God's light to everyone we meet. The life and light of God lives inside each believer, and God uses us to show His love to the world. We should do our part willingly and proudly so everyone everywhere can see God's light.

Because God has given the light of Jesus Christ, we know that the world cannot overcome it. Nothing in this life has the power to destroy the light that God has placed inside you. That means when you are going through hard times and when life is difficult, God's power is at work within you. God will help you overcome your struggles, your fears, and your temptations.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- How do you know that God's light is living inside you?
- What challenges do you face in being a light each day?
- What should you do when you go through dark times that try to destroy God's light in your life?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the Light of the world. Thank You for putting your light inside of me so that I can shine brightly for You. Please help me to live for You each day and to show Your light to each person I meet. Help me to be bold in living for You this week. Amen.



### RESPOND

On a sheet of paper, write down the names of up to three people you can be a light to this week. Pray for God to make you a light to your friends this week. Next week, be prepared to tell about the opportunities you had to be a light to your friends.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

**CATEGORY**

Cultural Issue

**TITLE**

Compassion

**REFERENCE**

John 11:28–36

• orange merit •

# John

## LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 2



### FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn the importance God places on loving people who are in need.

**KEY POINT**

With God's help, I will show compassion to people who are hurting.

**KEY VERSE**

Jesus wept. **John 11:35**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

**REFLECT ANSWERS**

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- God expects us to do so. That is the example Jesus set. Showing compassion follows the Golden Rule.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary.



### MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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CATEGORY  
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John 11:28–36

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# John

STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 2



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will show compassion to people who are hurting.

### KEY VERSE

Jesus wept. **John 11:35**



## READ

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”  
(John 11:28–36)

John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the New Testament. But, it has a powerful message for us. Jesus was at the tomb of a friend named Lazarus who had died four days before. Jesus had heard Lazarus was sick, but did not reach Lazarus's house until after the burial.

In a few minutes, Jesus would work one of His greatest miracles. Lazarus would rise from death. He would walk out of his own tomb alive and well. But even knowing what was about to happen, Jesus still took time to cry beside His friend's tomb.

Why did Jesus weep? Why was He “deeply moved in spirit and troubled”?

The answer is simple. Jesus cried because His

friends were grieving. Mary and her sister Martha were in pain. They had been through a terrible few days. Jesus wept because He cared about their situation.

Romans 12:15 says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Jesus did this. Even though defeat was about to be turned to victory, Jesus first mourned with His friends.

It’s easy to walk through life and ignore the pain of others. Sometimes we don’t we don’t know what to say. (Jesus didn’t say anything, He just cried with the sisters.) Other times we are focused on our own pain.

But God wants us to see hurting people and to respond to their pain. Godly compassion isn’t just about feeling sorry for someone, but about taking action.

When a tornado hits a town, a lot of people say, “I’ll pray for them.” Prayer is important. But some people also gave money or volunteered or sent items to help those in need. The kind of compassion God wants us to have requires that we take action to do what we can to help others.

The first step is seeing the hurting people around us. This means slowing down and really noticing the people God puts in our life.

The second step is choosing to help if possible. Jesus didn’t end the story by weeping with Mary and Martha. Instead, He used the power of God to raise Lazarus from the dead. He took action. That is what godly compassion does.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- Why is it important to show compassion to others?
- What can we do to help hurting people?
- What can we do to be better at noticing when people are hurting?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You that You are compassionate. Thank You for loving me and feeling pain when I hurt. Help me to be like You and to show compassion to everyone who is in need. Amen.



### RESPOND

Find someone in your church or area who is in need. Maybe there is an elderly couple who needs help with their lawn. Or maybe there is a sick person who could use some groceries. If you don’t know of someone with a need that you can meet, consider helping with someone else’s project. Find ways to meet people’s needs throughout the week.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

CATEGORY  
Biblical Worldview

TITLE  
Jesus vs. Satan

REFERENCE  
John 10:7–11

• orange merit •

# John

## LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 3



### FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn the difference between the mission of Jesus and the mission of Satan.

#### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will choose to be a part of Jesus' mission in the world.

#### KEY VERSE

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." **John 10:10**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

#### REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary.



### MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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CATEGORY  
Biblical Worldview

TITLE  
Jesus vs. Satan

REFERENCE  
John 10:7–11

• orange merit •

# John

STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 3



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will choose to be a part of Jesus' mission in the world.

### KEY VERSE

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." **John 10:10**



## READ

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."  
(John 10:7–11)

When soldiers go into a fight, they should have a clear goal. Sometimes the goal is to capture an enemy. Other times the goal is defending a place. The goals tell the soldiers what they need to do to be successful.

In John, Jesus talks about two sets of goals: His goals and Satan's goals. Jesus said Satan's goals are to "steal and kill and destroy." Jesus' own

goal is to save people and provide a full life for God's children.

In other words, when bad things happen in the world, they are often tied to Satan's mission. God's mission is to bring life.

Good things come from God. Life comes from God. Happiness, love, and friendship come from God. He gives good gifts to His children.

As God's people, we are called to be a part of God's mission. When we speak kind words to people, we speak life and we take part in Jesus' mission in the world. When we do things for people to serve them, we take part in Jesus' mission.

If we insult people or hurt people, we take part in the mission of Satan. When we are selfish, we are taking part in Satan's mission in the world.

God wants us to focus on taking part in His mission. That is why He put His Spirit into each

believer's heart. His Spirit helps us to do a better job of reaching the goals He has given us.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- What are some things that happen in the world that are parts of Satan's mission? What things are parts of Jesus' mission?
- Do you need to ask God for forgive you for participating in Satan's mission?
- What can you do this week to be a part of God's mission to the people around you?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You that Jesus' mission is to bring life to the world. Thank You that He has overcome the mission of Satan. Please help me to be a good follower of Jesus this week. Help me to share the mission of Jesus' mission with everyone I meet. Amen.



### RESPOND

At the end of each day this week, write down the ways you participated in God's mission. Also write down ways you took part in Satan's mission. Ask God to help you do better each day.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

CATEGORY  
Biblical Integrity

TITLE  
Serve Others

REFERENCE  
John 13:1–5

• orange merit •

# John

## LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 4



### FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn that Jesus modeled what it means to be a servant.

#### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will be a servant to other people.

#### KEY VERSE

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” **Mark 10:43–45**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

#### REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Answers will vary but should include the idea of putting others' needs ahead of our desires.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary.



### MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Water, towels, and tubs for washing feet

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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CATEGORY  
Biblical Integrity

TITLE  
Serve Others

REFERENCE  
John 13:1–5

• orange merit •

# John

STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 4



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will be a servant to other people.

### KEY VERSE

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

**Mark 10:43–45**



## READ

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13:1–5)

Imagine yourself walking down a dusty dirt road in ancient Israel. Animals travel the road each day. Sometimes it rains and the roads turn to mud! You are wearing sandals. They let your

feet collect muck and dirt from the road.

Now it's time to go into a house and eat. In ancient Israel, it was important to wash your feet before going to the table. To eat a meal without washing your feet first would be viewed as gross.

In most houses, it was the job of the host to be sure the guests' feet were washed. Usually this job fell to the host's servant. Washing feet was dirty and humiliating. Only the lowest slave would be forced to do such a task.

The disciples came in for dinner at the Last Supper. They knew everyone's feet needed to be washed, but none of them moved to do the job. No one wanted to take the job of the servant.

Then Jesus stepped in. He took off His good outer clothing, filled a basin with water, and knelt down to wash His disciples' feet. He took on the job.

The disciples must have shifted in their seats. Maybe they were embarrassed. Peter voiced his objection. But Jesus knew He had to model what it really meant to be a servant. He was the greatest Lord who ever walked the earth, yet He was also the lowest servant.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- What does it mean to be a servant?
- What attitudes prevent us from serving others like Jesus did?
- What are some ways that you can serve other people this week?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You for showing me what it means to serve others. Help me this week to follow Your example and be a good servant to everyone that I meet. Amen.



### RESPOND

Find a partner, and, if supplies are available, wash one another's feet. As you wash your partner's feet, pray for him. If supplies for washing feet are not available, find a partner and pray for him.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

CATEGORY

Integrity

TITLE

Forgiveness of All Sin

REFERENCE

John 8:1–11

• orange merit •

# John

LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 5



## FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn that God forgives all sins.

### KEY POINT

With God’s help, I will experience God’s forgiveness for my own sins, and I will forgive those who have wronged me.

### KEY VERSE

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub

Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

### REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys’ sheet.

- The Pharisees’ treatment of the woman was wrong. They put her on display, humiliated her, and threatened her life not because they were good men who wanted to do what God required but because they were enemies of Jesus and they wanted to trap Him.
- Answers will vary.
- Answers will vary depending on the situation. Discussion should include going to the person to talk about the problem and asking for God’s help. See Matthew 5:23–24; 18:15–19; and 1 Corinthians 6:1–8.



## MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Paper and pencils.
- A location and supplies for a fire. **Note: this is optional. Please see the Respond section.**

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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CATEGORY

Integrity

TITLE

Forgiveness of All Sin

REFERENCE

John 8:1-11

• orange merit •

# John

STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 5



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

With God's help, I will experience God's forgiveness for my own sins, and I will forgive those who have wronged me.

### KEY VERSE

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32**



## READ

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away

one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:1-11)

The Pharisees used the woman to set a trap for Jesus. They didn't care about her. They were ready to kill her for her sin. They were judging her, and they felt they were right to do so because she had sinned and the Law required that she be killed for it. The Pharisees thought they were right.

But they knew that Jesus taught mercy and forgiveness. They decided to trap Him. So they brought a woman who was caught breaking the Law. They wanted to see if Jesus would break

the Law by showing her mercy. If Jesus said, “Stone her,” then He would prove that He didn’t really forgive. If Jesus said, “Let her off with a warning,” then He would be guilty of breaking the Law.

And then Jesus wrote in the dirt. What did He write? We don’t know. But after Jesus had written it, the men accusing the woman quietly wandered off.

Then, when Jesus was standing alone with the woman, He refused to condemn her for her sin. He forgave her.

God forgives our sins. All of them. If we ask Him, God will forgive us and set us free.

God has forgiven us of our sins, and He wants us to forgive others. When people hurt us or cause problems for us, God wants us to choose not to condemn them. He wants us to set them free. We shouldn’t hold grudges. We should always choose the path of love, the path that Jesus showed us. When we treat other people with love and forgiveness, we are following the example of Christ.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- Were the Pharisees right or wrong in their treatment of the woman? Why?
- Why is it hard to forgive people?
- What do we need to do in order to forgive people who wrong us?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You for forgiving me of my sins. Please help me to forgive people who have hurt me. Amen.



### RESPOND

Write a list of people you need to forgive, and what you need to forgive them for. (The list is between you and God.) Pray asking for God’s help to set these people and these situations free. Destroy your list and let that symbolize releasing those who have hurt you. Your group leader may build a fire so you can burn the list.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.