The Gospel According to John

Featuring an impressive array of full-color stick figure illustrations!
The Word Became Flesh

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. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,

3 and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

5 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

6 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

7 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

8 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

9 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

10 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of man, but of God.

11 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, 

12 "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."'

13 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

14 No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, has made him known.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

15 When the Jews sent from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

16 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

17 He said, 'I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

18 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

19 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

20 John answered them all, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

This took place.
in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

29 The Lamb of God. The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me. 30 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel. 31 And John testified, I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 32 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.

35 The First Disciples of Jesus. The next day John was again standing with two of his disciples. 36 And as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" They followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi." (This was John's word for Teacher.) 39 He said to them, "Come and see." 40 They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

41 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 42 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." (Which is translated Anointed.) 43 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael. 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 about whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, 'a man of whom Jesus is saying, His coming is from Nazareth.'" 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, "Here is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "From where did you know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you, 'I saw you under the fig tree'? You will see greater things than these. 51 And now you see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."