



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 1: In the Beginning  
Suggested Week of Use: December 4, 2022  
Core Passage: John 1:1-14

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### News Story Summary

For the first time in 64 years, an American soccer player did something that no other player had done: score a World Cup goal against a team from Wales. The Welsh team had not surrendered a World Cup goal since Brazilian superstar Pelé scored against them in 1958 because they had not qualified for the event in that long. But Wales returned to the World Cup stage in 2022 and opened against the United States on November 21. That's when Tim Weah, a 22-year old playing on the right wing, took a pass from teammate Christian Pulisic and put the ball into the back of the net. Not only was it the first goal scored against Wales since any of the players (and many of their parents) were born, but it was also the first World Cup goal for the U.S. Men's team in eight years because the Americans had failed to qualify in 2018. The goal happened at the 36-minute mark of the game giving the U.S. a lead. The match, however, ended in a tie. After the game, Weah received a social media post from Pelé: "Congratulations. It was a beautiful goal. Keep dreaming, dreams come true."

For more about this story, search "Tim Weah Goal Wales."

### Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, explain that we love stories about feats that have never been accomplished or people doing incredible things. **Ask: What are some stories or news events that have stood out to you recently as an example of someone doing something new or incredible?** After several people have shared stories, ask if any members have been keeping up with the World Cup matches in Qatar. Share the story of Tim Weah's goal in the first game the U.S. team played. *Ask: Why was Weah's goal such a big deal?* Explain that Weah's family has a history in soccer since Tim's father, George, was named the best soccer player in the world in 1995. *Say: So, Tim's soccer story began long before his inclusion on the U.S. Men's National team.* Transition into the discussion of the chronology of Jesus.

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, remind the group of the story of Tim Weah's goal. Explain that Tim's goal did not make him a soccer player—he was already a soccer player. He found himself on the world stage and took the opportunity to do what he had trained and prepared to do. *Say: In the same way, Jesus's appearance on earth did not start His role as the Son of God. Jesus existed eternally as divine before His incarnation took place.* Explain that Jesus came into the world as the true light and the eternal word of God. His birth, in human flesh,

was certainly a first for all of humanity to experience. Close in prayer with the suggested prayer idea in the leader guide.