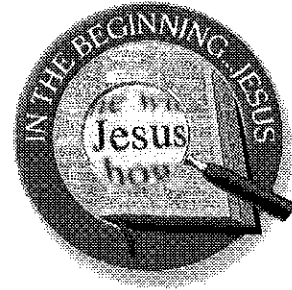


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 35

Jesus: The Final Word

Themes:

- Jesus is God's Anointed One, the Messiah.
- Jesus speaks with final authority.
- Jesus is God's greatest Prophet.
- Jesus brings completion to the Bible and explains the whole message of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 4:14-21, 32; 7:11-16; Mark 1:21-26; 2:10-12a; 10:46-52;
Deuteronomy 18:15; Hebrews 1:1-2a

Memory Verse:

John 1:15 (and review verses 1-14)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - GOD'S ANOINTED ONE=THE MESSIAH (from Lesson 29).
 - JESUS: THE FINAL WORD.
 - 2 CHECK MARKS.
 - THE BIBLE—GOD'S WORD TEMPLATE.
 - PROPHETS 1-4.
 - JESUS COMPLETES THE BIBLE & JESUS IS THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE.
 - EVIDENCE #1-4—Place these pieces in the envelopes mentioned below.
- 4 business-sized envelopes—Label these envelopes EVIDENCE #1, EVIDENCE #2, EVIDENCE #3, and EVIDENCE #4. Then place the EVIDENCE pieces mentioned above in the corresponding envelope.
- 4 Bibles (in addition to the one that you bring for yourself every time)—In between the pages of each Bible, insert one of the PROPHET pieces, mentioned above.
- Tape and a paper clip.

Lesson

Remind the children of the special contest they learned about in the previous lesson between the devil and Jesus in the wilderness. Who won the contest? [Jesus did.] Point to the **JESUS: PERFECT LAW KEEPER** on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster. Point out that Jesus succeeded where Adam had failed, where Israel had failed, and where all of us have failed. Jesus kept all of God's commands perfectly—He never sinned. But why does this matter to us? [Allow the children to respond.]

Have the children turn to **Luke 4:14-19**. These verses record what happened after Jesus won His contest with the devil in the wilderness. Choose children to read:

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about Him went out through all the surrounding country. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The "He" in these verses is Jesus. Jesus was in a synagogue, a place where the Jewish people would gather to read and learn from the Scriptures—the Old Testament.

Point out that it was very common for a Jewish man to get up and read from the Scriptures in the synagogues. It also would be common for the men to discuss the meaning of the Scripture they had read. This passage of Scripture had probably been read many, many times in this synagogue.

But here is what Jesus did next:

Read verses **20-21**:

And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

What was Jesus saying about what He had read? [That it had been fulfilled.] What did Jesus mean by that?

Explain that Jesus was claiming to be God's Anointed One—the Messiah (**display GOD'S ANOINTED ONE=THE MESSIAH**).

Jesus was explaining to them that the Scripture He read was about Himself.

Jesus is making a huge claim. He is claiming to be the long awaited Messiah. Should He be believed when He says this?

Point out that many times people will say things about themselves that are not necessarily true. A boy might say, "I am the best baseball player on my team." Or a girl might say, "I am the best speller in my class." How would you know that what they say is true? Can their words be trusted?

Jesus wanted the people listening to know He speaks with authority. What He says is completely true. To prove this, He gave the people evidence.

Distribute the four **EVIDENCE** envelopes to children. Tell them you are going to briefly summarize four times when Jesus gave evidence proving His authority. You will read each and then call on the child with the corresponding envelope to open it and read what Jesus said and did.

Event #1 (**Mark 2:10-12a**)

*As Jesus was preaching to a crowd, a man was brought to Him who was paralyzed—he could not walk. This is what Jesus said and did (have the child with **EVIDENCE #1** envelope open it and read):*

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all.

Event #2 (**Mark 1:25-26**)

*Jesus met a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. The man was under the power and influence of this evil spirit and was helpless to free himself. Here is what Jesus said and did (have the child with **EVIDENCE #2** envelope open it and read):*

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.

Event #3 (**Mark 10:52**)

*Jesus met a blind man. The blind man told Jesus that he wanted to see. This is what Jesus said and did (have the child with **EVIDENCE #3** envelope open it and read):*

And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed Him on the way.

Event #4 (Luke 7:14b)

As Jesus was walking into a town one day, a dead man was being carried out to be buried. The dead man's mother was there also. Jesus had compassion on her. Here is what Jesus said and did (have the child with EVIDENCE #4 envelope open it and read):

And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak.

According to the evidence, when Jesus speaks, do His words carry authority? Can He be believed? What did He give as evidence? [Miracles.]

*When Jesus spoke, miraculous things happened! (**Display GOD'S ANOINTED ONE=THE MESSIAH.**) When Jesus spoke in the synagogue and claimed to be the Messiah, He spoke with authority. He went on to prove this by being able to do what only the Messiah could do: forgive sinners who were held captive by sin, give sight to the blind, raise people from the dead, and other miracles. (Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the picture clue: **GOD'S ANOINTED ONE.**)*

Explain that after Jesus had announced He was the Messiah, He went out and continued to teach and explain the meaning of the other Old Testament passages. He explained to them who God is and what God is really like. People were amazed by His teaching because they recognized it had a special kind of authority. Here is what some of the people said about Jesus after hearing His words and seeing the miracles He did:

Read Luke 4:32 and 7:16b:

And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority.

And they glorified God, saying, "A great Prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

Point out that many people recognized the authority of Jesus' words and actions, and they believed Him to be a prophet of God—someone sent by God to speak God's words to the people. In other words, Jesus spoke with authority because His words were coming from God. Was Jesus a prophet of God?

In the Old Testament there were many prophets. These prophets were men, chosen by God, to communicate God's words to the people. They spoke with God's authority, on behalf of God. Moses was the greatest of

the Old Testament prophets. But Moses had been given a clue about a greater Prophet who would come in the future.

Read **Deuteronomy 18:15**:

The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to Him you shall listen—

What did Moses say the people must do when this prophet comes and speaks? [Listen to Him.] Was Jesus this Prophet?

Have a **Sword Drill** with **Hebrews 1:1-2a**:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.

What do these verses mean? [Allow the children to respond.]

Point out that these verses are telling us two important things about Jesus. *First, God has spoken to us through Jesus. He is a Prophet of God. Second, Jesus is God's own Son and fully God. Therefore, He is God's greatest Prophet. Jesus is the Prophet predicted through Moses long ago. (Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the picture clue: **GOD'S PROPHET**.) Because Jesus is God's greatest Prophet, He is God's final authority. Jesus has the final "say" or final word. (**Display JESUS: THE FINAL WORD** and tape it over **JESUS: PERFECT LAW KEEPER** on the poster.)*

There is another way in which Jesus is the final word. **Display THE BIBLE—GOD'S WORD** template and choose five children to come to the front. Give each child a Bible. Tell them that inside the Bibles there are pieces to complete the template. Have the children begin looking through the pages of the Bibles until they each find a **PROPHET** piece. Next, have the children tape their pieces in the correct place on the template. Has the template been completed? Are there any more pieces in the Bibles? Why not? Explain that, in the Old Testament, God gave His prophets His words. But none of the prophets were given the complete message of the Bible. They were all pointing to a final Prophet who would come and complete and explain the whole message of the Bible. That Prophet was Jesus, God's final Word. When He came, everything changed. Paperclip the transparent **JESUS COMPLETES THE BIBLE & JESUS IS THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE** over **THE BIBLE—GOD'S WORD** template.

When Jesus came to earth, He came as the greatest and final Prophet of God. He speaks with final authority. Jesus is God's Messiah who had come to finally save God's sinful people. This is the message of the Bible. The Bible is all about Jesus.

Application

- ❑ **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 35 in their workbooks. In the notebook section, have the children write the two Old Testament clues Jesus fulfilled. On the workbook page, the children will find quotes from Jesus—words He spoke. Have the children turn to these passages in their Bibles and fill in the missing words on the blank lines. How do these statements demonstrate the authority of Jesus? How do they show He is the message of the Bible? What does Jesus mean when He says He is the “Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”? (It might be helpful to think in terms of a complete book.)
- ❑ Read or summarize **Matthew 12:1-8**. How does Jesus show He has the “final word” in these passages? What did the Pharisees not understand about the Old Testament command concerning the Sabbath? What didn’t they understand about Jesus?
- ❑ Have the children turn to **Matthew 5** in their Bibles. Explain that chapters 5-7 record the words Jesus spoke, and that it is commonly called “The Sermon on the Mount.” In these words, Jesus explained what it means to live as the people of God. Many of the things Jesus spoke about were commands that had been given in the Old Testament. But now Jesus explained them more fully. As an example, read **Matthew 5:21-22**. Point out that Jesus is adding to and completing the Old Testament by speaking in terms of the heart—attitudes and desires. When Jesus, God’s Word, became flesh, did He bring God’s commands to us written on stone tablets? Why not? Read the promise in **Jeremiah 31:33**. How can God’s commands become written on your heart?
- ❑ Recall the conversation of the two men and Jesus from **Luke 24:13-27**. This conversation was discussed in Lessons 2 and 3. Why hadn’t the two men understood that Jesus had come to earth to die on the cross? Read verses **44-45**. Why was Jesus able to interpret and explain the Scriptures to them? Why do you think Jesus waited until *after* His resurrection to more fully explain the how the Old Testament pointed to Him? (Hint: Read **1 Corinthians 2:7-8**.)
- ❑ Read and discuss **John 1:11** and then the words Jesus spoke to a group of unbelieving Jews in **John 5:36-40** and **8:14-18**. Do all people respond to Jesus, God’s final Word, the same way? What did these people refuse to believe? Does it matter whether or not a person believes Jesus is the message of the Bible? Does it matter whether or not you believe everything that Jesus said is true? Read and discuss **John 3:35-36**.

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