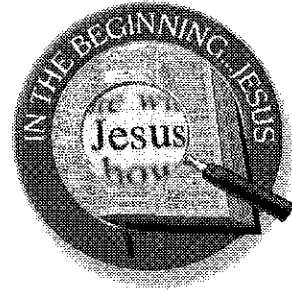


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 32 Jesus: Son of Man

Themes:

- Jesus became fully human.
- Jesus became fully human to save the people of Abraham, the children of Abraham.
- Jesus' family tree fulfills the Old Testament promises.

Scripture:

Luke 2:40; Matthew 8:24; John 4:6; 11:35; 19:28; Hebrews 2:16-17a

Memory Verse:

John 1:13 (and review verses 1-12)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - JESUS: SON OF MAN.
 - JESUS' FAMILY TREE.
 - 4 CHECK MARKS.
- Baby book (the type used for recording information, filled with baby pictures, and including a page showing the baby's family tree).
- Large bag with the following items inside: measuring tape, pencil, book, shoe, fork (or spoon), hand weight (one- or two-pound).

Lesson

Display the baby book. Show the children a few pages of the book. Explain to the children who the baby is. Point out that many times when parents have a new baby, they will use a book like this for pictures of their baby and also to write down things about their baby. Read some examples of this from your particular book. [At this point, you can use any number of examples, except the baby's family tree.] For example:

This book has a place to write down where and when the baby was born. The color of his hair. How much he weighed when he was born. There is a place in the book for the baby's footprints. There is a place to write down when certain things happened, like when he first smiled, sat up, crawled, talked, and walked.

Remind the children that in the last lesson we learned about the birth of Jesus.

Imagine for a moment that Mary had a baby book like this. Could she have written down the date and time of Jesus' birth? Could she have written down the color of His hair? Could she have put Jesus' footprints in the book? Could she have written down when He first smiled, sat up, crawled, talked, and walked? If Joseph had had a camera, could he have taken pictures of Jesus to place in the book?

Explain that Mary and Joseph could have done all these same kinds of things because Jesus was a real, live baby, like you were at one time. Jesus was not some "spirit" (or a "glowing" being with a halo over His head). What happened as baby Jesus got older? Did He develop just like a regular baby would?

Have the children turn to **Luke 2:40**:

And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

The Child in this verse is Jesus. Just like an ordinary baby, after He was born, He grew up.

Illustration: Display the large bag. Tell the children that there are objects in the bag that are clues. These clues point to things that are part of what is meant by "growing up." Choose children to come and take an object from the bag and see if the children can guess in what way the object expresses how a child grows and develops:

- Measuring tape: A child grows taller.
- Pencil: A child learns to write.
- Book: A child learns to read.
- Shoe: A child learns to walk.
- Fork: A child learns to feed himself.

- Hand weight: A child becomes stronger.

Explain that just as each of us grew up in these ways, so did Jesus. He was born as a baby like us and then grew up as a child like us. And when Jesus grew up to be an adult, in certain ways, He was just like the other people around Him.

Choose children to read the following verses. After each verse is read, ask the children in what way it demonstrates how Jesus was like an ordinary person:

Matthew 8:24

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He was asleep.

John 4:6

Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

John 11:35

Jesus wept.

John 19:28

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

Point out that in many ways Jesus was just like the people around Him. He ate, worked, got tired, slept, cried, and laughed. It was as if He were just an ordinary man, the supposed Son of Joseph, another ordinary man. **Display JESUS: SON OF MAN** and tape it on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster, on the cross, just above Jesus' head.

Why would God have sent a great King and Savior into the world as a little human baby?

Why would God have Jesus grow up like other children?

Why would God have Jesus be a Man who needed to eat and sleep and who would get tired after a long walk?

Why not just send an angel from heaven who is super-powerful, able to fly, able to walk through walls, and do neat things like that?
[Allow the children to respond.]

Have a **Sword Drill** with **Hebrews 2:16-17a**:

For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect.

Did Jesus come to save angels? [No, He came to save the offspring of Abraham—the family of Abraham.] Therefore, who did He become like? Who are His brothers? [People—humans, both men and women.]

Display the baby book again. Point out that most baby books have a place to list the members of the baby's family—the baby's family tree (show this in the baby book if it is there). Explain that because Jesus was born as a real baby, within a real human family, He also has a family tree. **Display JESUS' FAMILY TREE.** Quickly read the names on the tree (this is not an all-inclusive list).

Are any of the names on this tree familiar? Do you think Jesus' family tree matters? Why? Who is at the bottom of His family tree? [Adam.] What was special about Adam? [He was the first man.]

Explain that at the beginning of this study, we had a clue on our poster that told us something special about the first man, Adam. Do any of the children remember this clue? [**GOD'S IMAGE BEARER.**] Remind the children that if God is to be faithful to all His promises and if Jesus is to be proven to be the One God sent as the promised King and Savior of His people, Jesus must fulfill ALL the Old Testament clues perfectly—every single one!

Choose four children to come to the front and hand each of them a **CHECK MARK.** Ask the class the following questions as you display **JESUS' FAMILY TREE:**

*Because Jesus came to save God's people, He had to become like them—becoming like the very first man, Adam, God's image bearer. (Have a child tape a **CHECK MARK** on the poster clue: **GOD'S IMAGE BEARER.**)*

*But it wasn't enough to fulfill that clue on the family tree. Jesus must also belong to the right family—God's chosen family. According to the verses we read in Hebrews, what one man did God choose through which to bless the whole world? [Abraham.] Is Abraham's name on Jesus' family tree? Yes. Jesus is the offspring of Abraham. Jesus is the one Man through whom God would fulfill His promise to bless the whole world. (Have a child tape a **CHECK MARK** on the poster clue: **ABRAHAM—ONE MAN BLESSING THE WHOLE WORLD.**)*

*But it wasn't enough to fulfill these two clues. Jesus must also belong to the one nation God chose. Which nation was that? [Israel.] Is Israel's name on Jesus' family tree? Yes. (Have a child tape a **CHECK MARK** on the poster clue: **ISRAEL—GOD'S CHOSEN NATION.**)*

But it wasn't enough to be from God's chosen nation. If Jesus really is the long promised King, He must also be from the right tribe of Israel. Which tribe did God say the scepter would never depart from? [Judah.] Is Judah's

name on Jesus' family tree? Yes. (Have a child tape a **CHECK MARK** on the poster clue: **LION OF JUDAH**.)

[Note: The reference to David and the establishment of his everlasting throne was purposefully left out of this lesson. We will be using that clue in Lesson 39 since during the New Testament narrative, and even now, we have not yet SEEN Jesus reign in all His fullness.]

Emphasize that it was no accident that Jesus was born as a real human baby into a certain human family. To many people around Jesus, it must have seemed as if Jesus was just an ordinary child who grew up to be an ordinary man.

Do you think the Jewish people were longing and waiting for an ordinary looking man to save them? Do you think this Son of a simple carpenter was the type of man they imagined as their King? But the story isn't over yet. Here is a clue to think about for our next lesson:

Ordinary but good to taste, be careful not to judge in haste.

Application

- Show the children the picture clue, **GOD'S IMAGE BEARER**. Remind the children that God created the first man, Adam, in His own image and likeness. All of us are descendents of Adam. In what ways are we like Adam? Jesus was also a descendent of Adam—like us. Is it hard for you to imagine Jesus as a real Person? What might make it hard to believe? Can you think of why it would be important for you to know that Jesus was fully human? Read and discuss **Hebrews 4:15**. How does the fact that Jesus became human, like us, make Him able to sympathize with our weaknesses?
- Explain to the children that sometimes at baseball games a team will use a pinch hitter. For example, maybe a certain player strikes out every time he comes to bat. His team is losing and really needs to get another run. The coach may decide to use a pinch hitter—another player who comes to bat in place of the player who has struck out. Would the coach use a dog as a pinch hitter? Why not? What about a plant? What about an elephant? Why not? Read **Hebrews 2:14-17a**. Is there a reason humans need someone like a pinch hitter? What have we continually failed to do? [Keep God's commands.] Why would God choose to send Jesus, as a real human, to save His people? [Because Jesus became like us, He can act something like a pinch hitter, taking our place to do something we could never do.] According to verses 14b-15, what did Jesus come to do for His people?

- Choose children to read the following verses: **Matthew 11:19; Matthew 12:8; Mark 10:45; Luke 19:10; Luke 24:7; John 6:27**. What “name” do each of these verses use for Jesus? As you read through these verses, does this “Son of Man” act like any other man? What was this Man able to do that no other man (or person) could do? Is that important for you also?
- Read the account of Jesus praying before His death from **Luke 22:39-44**. In what ways do you see Jesus’ humanity in these verses? What words show He had real feelings and emotions? Can you relate to these feelings? Have you felt troubled? Have you struggled to do what is right? How can it help you to know Jesus has experienced these same kinds of things, yet never sinned? Read and discuss **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**. Why is Jesus able to sympathize and comfort people who have real suffering and pain? What was He able to also experience in His own human body?
- **WORKBOOK**—In the notebook section, have the children write the four clues fulfilled by Jesus’ human family tree. Using **Matthew 1:1-16** and **Luke 3:38**, have the children fill in missing letters of the names on Jesus’ family tree. Have them circle names that fulfilled important clues from the Old Testament. (**Note:** This is not the complete genealogy, but it does include names that are most familiar.)

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