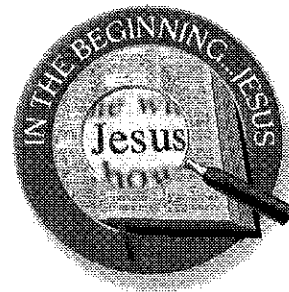


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 33 Jesus: Son of God

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully man.
- Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises concerning His deity.
- Because Jesus is God, He is able to do what God's people could not do—save sinners.
- Jesus is the only way sinners may be saved.

Scripture:

John 1:1-3, 14, 51; 6:1-14; 6:32-33, 35; 8:53, 56-58; 14:6

Memory Verse:

John 1:14a (and review verses 1-13)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - CLUE 1-3—Fold the clues in thirds and place them inside the JESUS envelope, mentioned below.
 - PUZZLE 1-2 (from Lesson 6—if you didn't save these PUZZLES, use copies of the uncut puzzles from the Resource Packet).
 - 3 CHECK MARKS.
 - JESUS: SON OF GOD.
- Four boxes of the same brand of macaroni and cheese (or something similar)—Carefully open one box and add a prize inside (e.g., a small treat, a dollar bill, etc.) and then glue the lid closed again.
- Two identical envelopes (preferably business-sized)—Label one JESUS and the other MAN. Put CLUES 1-3 into the JESUS envelope and seal it. Seal the MAN envelope without any clues inside.
- Markers.

Lesson

Choose four children to come to the front. Hand each a box of macaroni and cheese. Have them look at the boxes. Does each box look like an ordinary box of macaroni and cheese? [Yes.]

Suppose you went grocery shopping with your mom and she asked you to pick out one box of macaroni and cheese. Would it make any difference which of these four boxes you picked? Why not?

Ask the children what clue you gave them at the end of last week's lesson.

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

Can you guess what this clue hints at? [Allow the children to respond.]

Have each of the children open their box. Did each child find "ordinary" macaroni and cheese inside? [Three contained macaroni and cheese. One also had the small treat.] Have the children sit down. Hold up the box that had the [treat] and comment:

From the outside, did this box look any different than the others? If your mom had asked you to pick out one box, you probably would have assumed all four boxes were the same and it didn't make any difference which one you chose. But this one was really different than the rest. Were you surprised at what was inside this box? Have you ever found [a treat] inside a box of macaroni and cheese before?

Remind the children that in our previous lesson we learned that Jesus came into the world as a real human baby. He was born into a family with a dad and mom. He grew up just as other babies grow up. Jesus learned how to walk, talk, read, and write just as other children. And Jesus grew bigger and stronger and became a man just as other little boys eventually grow up to become men. To many of the people around Him, He seemed just like any other man—ordinary. But was Jesus really *just* an ordinary man or was there something about Him that people were surprised by?

Have the children turn to **John 6:1-14**. Have the children quickly glance through these verses. They tell of something extraordinary Jesus did that surprised the people. What was it? [Jesus fed (at least) 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.]

How do we know all the people actually got enough to eat? [They had leftovers. See verse 12.] Are five loaves of bread and two fish enough to feed that many people? What had Jesus done? [Made more food.] Can an ordinary man make thousands of loaves of bread out of only five loaves? Can an ordinary man make thousands of fish out of only two fish?

Display the **JESUS** and **MAN** envelopes. From the outside the envelopes appear to

be the same, just as Jesus appeared to be an ordinary man. However, was Jesus just an ordinary man? Could an ordinary man have fed and satisfied 5,000 hungry people with five loaves and two fish? What sort of man was Jesus that *He* could do this? Choose a child to come to the front and remove **CLUE 1** from the **JESUS** envelope. Unfold the clue and tape it to the wall:

CLUE 1 _____ from heaven. (John 6:32-33)
_____ of life. (John 6:35)

Choose children to read **John 6:32-33, 35**:

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

What words should be written on the blank lines? [Bread.] (Write this on both blank lines.) Why would Jesus refer to Himself as bread from heaven? Does that sound familiar? Did we have an Old Testament clue about bread? [BREAD FROM HEAVEN.] Why did God send manna to the Israelites when they were in the wilderness? What would have happened to them without this bread? Does bread ordinarily fall from heaven? What was Jesus revealing to the people when He said He was "bread from heaven" and "the bread of life"? [Allow the children to respond.]

Point out that Jesus did come as a man, but not an ordinary man. Not only was He sent from heaven, but He came to give life to God's people and satisfy them. He is able to do this because He *is not* just an ordinary man. Jesus is the fulfillment of an Old Testament clue that God would send a new kind of bread from heaven so His people could have life. Tape a **CHECK MARK** to the poster clue: **BREAD FROM HEAVEN**.

Choose a child to come to the front and remove **CLUE 2** from the **JESUS** envelope. Unfold the clue and tape it to the wall:

CLUE 2 Before Abraham was, _____. (John 8:53-58)

Listen carefully as I read these verses. They contain important questions some of the Jews had for Jesus. They were starting to recognize Jesus was no ordinary man because of the surprising things He was able to do. So they asked Jesus...

Quickly read **John 8:53, 56-58**:

"Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

[Jesus said,] "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

If Jesus were an ordinary man, He would have had to be more than 1,000 years old to have seen Abraham. But Jesus is no ordinary man. What words should be written on the blank line of our second clue? [I am.] (Write the words, I AM on the blank line of the clue.) Who said these words about Himself? [Jesus.] Isn't this a strange way to identify who you are? Why not say something like, "Before Abraham was born, I didn't exist"? Does anything sound familiar about the words, "I am"?

Recall that we have a clue on our poster with the words, **I AM**. What do those two words signify? [God revealing Himself to Moses at the burning bush. God revealing His name.] Point out that by saying these two little words, Jesus was identifying Himself as whom? [God.] Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the poster clue: **I AM**.

Display the **JESUS** envelope again and hold it up to the **MAN** envelope. Even though Jesus appeared to be an ordinary man in many ways, He was different from everyone else in a very special way: Jesus is fully God.

Have the children turn to **John 1:1-3** and **14**:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Point out that these verses tell us Jesus, "the Word," is God. He is the one, eternal Creator. When He came to earth, Jesus also became fully human—that is what is meant by the words, "became flesh." Jesus came to earth as the Son of God. **[Note:** You may want to remind the children that God is a triune God. God is three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.]

Display JESUS: SON OF GOD. Tape it on **JESUS: SON OF MAN** on the poster (at the top only so you can lift up the sign to see **JESUS: SON OF MAN** underneath).

Why is it important for us to understand Jesus is all He claimed to be?

*Why is it important to understand Jesus was not just an ordinary man?
What did God's people need? [Allow the children to respond.]*

Choose a child to come to the front and remove **CLUE 3** from the **JESUS** envelope. Unfold the clue and tape it to the wall:

CLUE 3 Jesus said, "I am the _____
and the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through _____."

Have the children turn to **John 14:6** and read the verse quietly to themselves. What words should be written on the blank lines? [Way, Me.]

What does Jesus mean by this verse?

Emphasize that because Jesus is the Son of God and is fully God, He is the only way to come to God. There are not a lot of different ways to come to God or even two ways—there is only one way. Jesus is that one way. Jesus is the only way sinners can be saved from God's judgment and brought near to God.

Display PUZZLES 1-2. Remind the children that in our lesson about the flood, we learned that God told Noah to build how many arks? [One.] Why not two or three arks? Why only one ark? Because that one ark was a clue. God had made only one way for Noah and his family to be saved—through the one ark. That Old Testament clue pointed to something in the future. It pointed the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the one and only way sinners can be saved from the final judgment of death and hell. Give a child a **CHECK MARK** and have him tape it on the picture clue: **1 WAY**.

Point out that God knew no ordinary man or even an angel could save His sinful, helpless people. That is why God did not send an ordinary man or even an angel into the world to complete His plan. God sent Jesus, His Son.

Application

- Have the children make a list of things Jesus did that no man could do (that demonstrated He is God). Examples: healed the blind, lame, and sick; raised the dead; calmed the storm; made food to feed 5,000; etc. Why did Jesus demonstrate these miracles? What was He proving to the people around Him? What should have been their response? Read and discuss **John 14:10-12**.
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 33 in their workbooks. Have them write the Old Testament clues Jesus fulfilled in the notebook section. Have the children look at the outline of a man on their workbook

page and then read **Colossians 1:15-16**. Whom are these verses describing? [Jesus.] Have the children write "Jesus" in the box above the outline on their workbook page. Read verse **19**. What does it mean that "all the fullness of God" dwells in Jesus? Have the children think of different attributes of God: holy, almighty, eternal, righteous, creator, faithful, wise, good, merciful, etc. Instruct the children to "fill up" the outline of Jesus with words that describe God. Because Jesus is fully God, what is He able to do that no other person can do? (Read verse **20**.)

- Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. Even though Jesus is fully God, what did He do? (You may need to explain that Jesus never stopped being "fully God" while He was on earth. Rather, He gave up some of the privilege and status of His God-ness. For example: God is almighty, but Jesus willingly gave up using His power many times.) How should this serve as an example for us? Why does verse **5** say we should have this mindset also? How would that be lived out? (Read verses **3-4**.) Is this hard to do? Why?
- Point out that there are many religions in the world that believe Jesus was "just a good man or a good teacher." According to the verses read during the lesson, is this true? Why not? How is Jesus more than just a good teacher and good man? Does this really matter? Why? Choose children to read **John 10:9; 14:6** and **Acts 4:12**. What do these verses say? Can salvation come through anyone else? Who do you believe Jesus is?
- Is it hard to understand that Jesus became fully human—just like us—while at the same time being fully God? Is it hard to understand that while Jesus was a little, weak baby in a manger, He was also keeping the whole universe going? (See **Hebrews 1:3**.) Is it hard to understand that while Jesus was thirsty and hungry, He was making all the plants grow and making all the water exist? Explain that there are many things about God that are incomprehensible—more than we can understand. *Do you remember why Jesus became fully human—just like you?* Review and discuss **Hebrews 2:16-17** and **4:15-16**.

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- Parent Resource Page