

LESSON 3

Who Is Jesus?

(Exploring the Claims of Jesus Christ)

Lesson Objective:

To choose for themselves what they think of Jesus: is He “a liar,” “a crazy person” or “God?” To “Uncover the Truth” about Jesus and His claims.

Prayer as You Prepare:

Jesus, we as leaders have come to know that You indeed are the one true God. I pray for these students. Learning the truth about You is the most important topic of their lives. Open up their hearts and minds so that they can begin their journey to belong to You. Thank You, Jesus. We love You. Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Begin the Journey:

Talk to your students about what it must have been like for Jesus’ friends and family to hear Him say that He was really God! Encourage your students to be honest about their feelings and beliefs. Consider how you would respond if one of your students said that they thought Jesus is a “crazy person” or “a liar.” If you need help with this, check out:

<http://www.existence-of-god.com/lord-liar-lunatic.html>

ACTIVITY PAGE: JESUS IS

As we explore who Jesus is, this handout will help give more specifics on Him. Your students will search through the word search for characteristics of Jesus, including who He claimed to be—Son of God, Compassionate and Alpha and Omega. Encourage your students to bring the word search to the discussion time.

On the other side of the handout will be the five Quiet Time Check-in review questions for Matthew 3:1–4:25.

Did You Know?

When Jesus was on Earth, people had different opinions about who He was. Jesus asked Peter what he thought. Read Mark 8:27–29 to hear more about this conversation.

OBJECT LESSON: CROWN

If Jesus is truly who He says He is—God—then He would be our sovereign Lord, the King. Today a crown often depicts royalty. The King and Queen of England wear crowns that are part of the “Crown Jewels.” Words such as justice, distinction, leadership, ability, responsibility and lordship might come to mind when you think about royalty. Ask your students what they think of when they think of royalty?

The definition for “crown” from www.thefreedictionary.com/crown is “an ornamental circlet or head covering often made of precious metals set with jewels and worn as a symbol of sovereignty.”

Seek the Treasure:

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6)

Uncover the Truth:

Before you start, divide these verses up amongst your students. Have each student look up a verse and be ready to read it when it is their turn. That will make this section much more manageable for your small group. Then match the verse with Jesus’ claim.

1. Matthew 11:27—*You cannot know the Father (God) unless you know the Son (Me).*
2. Matthew 11:28-30—*I am the One who can give you rest for your souls.*
3. Luke 10:16—*If you reject Me, you reject the One who sent Me (God, the Father)*
4. Luke 22:69—*I (the Son of Man) will be seated at the right hand of God.*
5. John 3:13-17—*I came from Heaven to give eternal life to all those who believe.*
6. John 6:35-40—*I am the bread of life. If you come to Me you will not be spiritually hungry or thirsty.*
7. John 8:12—*I am the light of the world.*
8. John 10:17-18—*I willingly lay down My life.*
9. John 10:30—*I and the Father are one.*
10. John 11:25-26—*I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in Me, you will never die!*

Find the Purpose:

Check-in with your students. Did anyone change their mind about Jesus? This lesson really strives to bring Jesus to life today. He is not just a part of history in the New Testament of our Bibles. He still deeply impacts every day of our lives.

- Pick one of the matching verses and “Jesus Claims.” Why did this one stand out to you?
Answers will vary. Maybe it stood out for a couple of reasons—it is a brand new revelation about Jesus, it is a Jesus claim your student knows and finds security in or it powerfully and clearly illustrates all Jesus was and is.
- If you lived back in Jesus’ time and saw Him walking down the street, what would you do?
Answers will vary. Our response today would have likely been the same in Jesus’ time—surprise, awe, bewilderment, reverence, shock and worshipful.
- Since Jesus is not walking around the Earth today, why do you think we still read stories about Him?
Answers will vary. Some ideas are that we read stories about Him so that we can know Him better, we understand His example that He set, we can know the right way to live or we can be reminded of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Why do you think it is important to live like Jesus?
Answers will vary. It is important to live like Jesus because we want to grow in our relationship with Him. We love Jesus so we want to live an obedient life just as He did. Jesus was the ultimate model of love, humility and sacrifice which are all qualities we admire and aspire to live as Christians. Finally, we want to be like that in our world today so that others can know Jesus through us and our example.
- Now that you have learned more about Jesus from the Bible and read some of His bold claims, what do you think about Him? Was He:
Answers will vary. Bottom line, our hope and prayer is that your students are 100% honest. If they are sold out to Jesus, praise God! If they are still skeptical we still praise Him. The wheels are turning and seeds are planted. God will make them ultimately grow and blossom into a new creation.

GAME: TRUE OR FALSE

Objective—To review what they have learned about Jesus.

Materials—List of facts about Jesus, stars poster board and a coin

Instructions—Divide your students into two teams. Give each student a star. Tell your students that they will hear a statement about Jesus that they must figure out whether it is true or false. If they answer correctly, they will put their star on their team's poster. If they answer incorrectly, the question is given to the other team who has a chance to answer it correctly.

Flip a coin to decide who will go first. Read the first question and have one student with a star answer true or false. While teammates may help each other, only a student with a star in their hand can ultimately answer the question aloud. The first team to get everyone's star on their team's poster wins!

NOTE:

- Maintain structure in only allowing the student holding the star to provide the final true or false answer.

Discussion

1. How are you like Jesus? How are you not like Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus was like as a child?
3. If Jesus lived on Earth today, what do you think He would be doing?

FOLLOW-UP:

Follow up on this week's "ONE Way to Spend Time With God." It will help hold your students and parents accountable for the "Explore the Possibilities at HOME" section. While there is no homework to complete at home, this simple page is full of ways to bring each lesson home. We do not want our parents to miss out on valuable connection opportunities with their child and their Kids Small Groups experience. Thus, it may be a great week to connect with the parents to ensure they understand the importance of their participation in Kids Small Groups at home during the week.