

# JESUS

## WHO DOES HE SAY HE IS?

Lesson # 5 of 27

### Scripture/Memory Verse

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life” John 14:6

### Lesson Goal & Objectives

#### Goal:

The students will “come in contact” with Jesus for themselves by reading from the New Testament and will begin to understand who He said He was.

#### Objectives:

Each student will have a Bible or printed New Testament story which he or she can read, actually understand and take with them.

Each student will listen to a story about Jesus and then share what he or she thought about who Jesus is, or what He did.

Each student will listen to Jesus describe who He says He is and then have them share what they heard.

### Introduction and Background for the Teacher

Today people are bombarded with many messages about who Jesus is. Some points of view teach that Jesus was just a man: a really good and great man – but only a man.

Your objective as the teacher is to get the students into contact not merely with what others say Jesus did and who He is, but rather to get them into contact with Jesus, Himself, and let the participants draw their own conclusions.

Another challenge is that today people don't sit and read for 30 minutes at a time; they live in a world of short “sound bites.” However, this can be really helpful because many of the Gospel narratives are short, pithy stories.

As you read the parts of the Gospel concerning Jesus' identity, it will become clear that Jesus, Himself, does claim to be God – that is, He is not only “the way to the Father,” but He and the Father are ONE.

Who is Jesus? Is he a liar, a lunatic, or is he who he said he was? Let's start with looking at the Gospels to see some of the things Jesus did and then to look at some of the things Jesus taught, and then to recognize who he said he was.

Another wonderful resource for you to read is the book by C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

Be prepared for the situation that some or even all of the participants may not be ready to *accept* that Jesus is God come to earth – that is not the point of this lesson. The point of this lesson is to get the participants to realize that what the world is saying

about Jesus: the idea that He is just a mere man directly contradicts everything Jesus said about himself.

### **Materials Needed for the Lesson**

- Song - Untitled Hymn (come to Jesus) by Chris Rice (*Or another song, hymn or piece of music which you have available with the same theme and similar content*)
- Pictures of Jesus
- Paper & crayons, colored pencils or markers
- DVD “The Passion” or “Jesus of Nazareth”

### **Opening Prayer** (5 min.)

*(Over the course of the Confirmation class one of your goals as teacher is to help the students learn about prayer through **both** increasing familiarity with the Book of Common Prayer **and** also by praying extemporaneously.)*

Here is a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, page 225: “Almighty God, who truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.”

### **Review of the Previous Lesson** (5min.)

#### *Discussion questions:*

- What do you remember about the Trinity?
- Present your prayer to the class.
- Discuss how you practiced using the sign of the cross.

### **Introductory Activity** (5-10 Min.)

*(These ideas are intended to ensure a lively and exciting atmosphere to begin the lesson. It is fine for each parish to approach this differently, using your own materials or games if you wish.. Choose **ONE** activity that suits your group best. It is best not to eliminate doing any activity at all.)*

Choose **one** of the following suggestions:

- Cut out pictures of Jesus and post around your room.
- Show a video clip from movie “The Passion” or “Jesus of Nazareth”.
- Have the students look up explanations of who Jesus was on the internet.
- Draw a picture of what you think Jesus looks like.
- Listen to the song: *Untitled Hymn (come to Jesus)* by Chris Rice or other similar song or hymn

## Lesson (20 – 25 minutes)

*(If the class is large enough, or if this better suits your purpose, break the class up into small groups of two or three. Each group can work on one verse, or a small set of 2 – 3 verses from the following scriptures. Otherwise, read and discuss the scripture verses with the whole class.)*

Read aloud from the Gospel of St. John, chapter 10, verses 1 – 21. Jesus calls Himself the “Good Shepherd.”

**Discuss:** What does Jesus say about himself?  
What does a Shepherd do?  
What does this story teach you about Jesus?

Read aloud from the Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 4, verses 35 – 41 in which Jesus calms the storm

**Discuss:** Who can make the wind obey them?  
What does this story teach you about Jesus?

## Reflection (10-15 min.)

Have the kid’s pick one of the readings, re-read it and then write out what they think about Jesus.

## Take-home Activity (5 min.)

*(It is recommended that you make use of this take-home activity to re-enforce the learning experience. You **may** eliminate this exercise if **necessary**. You may also substitute another activity if you find that to be more helpful. You should briefly review this lesson and review the take-home activity at the beginning of the next learning session).*

### **Choose ONE of the following:**

– Do a questionnaire asking people, “Who do you think Jesus is?” Take notes on their responses and share your results at the next class.

**OR**

– Go to a soup kitchen and volunteer. Is this something that Jesus would do? Why?

## Closing Prayer (5 min.)

*Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not concerned so much with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:*

Father God, I pray that you would always protect me wherever I go and keep me safe. I want to be a sheep in your pasture and to know that Jesus is my Shepherd. Help me always to hear your voice leading and guiding me. Send your angels to keep charge over me. Specifically, I would like to pray for *(name any area of special concern for your safety)*

Father God, I look to you for healing of myself and for my family and friends. I pray

for (name any areas you want to be healed for or any concerns of your family or friends).

Thank you God for everything you have done for me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

### **Scripture References**

- Mark 4:35-41
- Matthew 5:1-12
- John 10:1-21

### **Additional Resources**

- Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis – you can buy this book at Amazon.com for \$10.97
- *Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)* by Chris Rice from the album Run the Earth, Watch the Sky – may be purchased at iTunes, Napster, Rhapsody, Amazon.com, or any music store.

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