

JESUS

SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Lesson # 7 of 27

Scripture/Memory Verse

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Lesson Goal & Objectives

Goal

- The students will develop an “understanding of Jesus’ connection with the Jewish people and His connection with God.
- In the first 4 sessions time was spent describing: God; God as Father-Son-Holy Spirit; and, God and His Word, among other things. This session seeks to link firmly the God-man Jesus with the Second Person of the Trinity and with God. We will read from the Scriptures in order to develop an understanding of these connections and of this unity.

Objectives

- As in previous lessons, the students will have a Bible or printed portion of the Scripture story which they can read, actually understand and take with them.
- The students will listen to a story that describes the Messiah and then share their understanding of what a “Messiah” is.
- The students will listen to Jesus describe who He says He is. The students will reflect on and discuss what they heard.

Introduction and Background for the Teacher

In the last two sessions we looked at what Jesus did and listened to what He taught on earth before his death and resurrection. We also looked at how He was born in order to understand that He is God come to earth.

Much of who Jesus is and what he did needs to be understood in the context of his Jewish-ness. We need to appreciate that Jesus is the fulfillment of the longing of God to be in relationship with humankind which we see developing in God’s relationship with the People of Israel.

God seeks a relationship with us, but we turn away from God when we sin. When we “repent,” we are “turning back” to God – but how? How can we as humans “climb up” to God and “make right” all the times we have turned away from God?

The answer is that we can't: we cannot climb up to God – God must come to earth to save us.

Jesus revealed to us through his life, his death and his resurrection that he was accomplishing the defeat of that which separates us from God – he is the true Messiah, which means “Savior.” The Jewish people longed for this Messiah, and the Messiah is foretold in the Old Testament.

Why might it be important that we understand this connection of Jesus to his Jewish roots?

- a. To help us understand the essential role of Jesus in God's plan for salvation which has been in place from the beginning of time. Refer back to the Isaiah verse from the last lesson.
- b. To help us appreciate more who this God is whom we say we believe in.
- c. To help us answer the question, “Do we each need to be saved?”
- d. To help us test other concepts and ideas about God that we will be presented with for our entire lives.

You may need to spend some time with the participants exploring the questions: “Do they think they need God in their lives” and “Do they think they need to be ‘saved?’” because these are a foreign concepts to many today. At this point you may just be “planting some seeds” because in an upcoming lesson the participants will have to deal specifically with sin and the Cross – so give these ideas some time to work.

Materials Needed for Lesson

- Magazines with pictures of people
- DVD “The Passion” (*if available*)
- Paper & Pens, Scissors, Tape

Opening Prayer (5 min.)

(As mentioned in previous lessons the students need to develop both an appreciation for the spiritual resources in the Book of Common Prayer as well as the ability to pray in their own words)

Here is a prayer you can use from the Book of Common Prayer, page 218: “O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son, who with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.” (*Students may also be invited to offer their own prayers*)

Review of the Previous Lesson (5min.)

- Discuss what you found out about your birth.

How is Jesus' birth unique?

Introductory Activity (5-10 Min.)

*(These ideas are intended to ensure a lively and exciting atmosphere for the beginning of this lesson. It is fine for each parish to approach this differently if you wish to make use of your own games or other materials. It is best **not** to eliminate doing any activity at all.)*

Choose ONE of the following activities:

Cut out pictures of people who "save" other people and post around your room. **OR**

Show a video clip from movie "The Passion". **OR**

Have the kids look up the word "Messiah" on the computer. **OR**

Draw a picture or write a list of what they want to be "saved" from.

Lesson (20-25 min.)

(If the class is large enough, or if you find it helpful, you may break the class up into small groups of 2 or 3, or you may discuss the Scriptures with the class as a whole)

Pick one or a small set of 2 – 3 verses from the Scriptures listed below and use the discussion questions provided:

Read aloud: Isaiah 61:1-3 – on the mission of the Messiah

and then Luke 4:14-21– Jesus proclaims who He is in his hometown.

Discuss these questions:

Where is Jesus when He reads the scroll?

The reading from the scroll says that someone (the Messiah) will do certain things – what things will this Messiah do?

Point out to the participants that the "scroll" of Isaiah was written 600 years before Jesus was born.

Who does Jesus say this person is?

Read aloud: John 15:9-17 – Jesus talks about real love

What does Jesus say "greater love is"?

What did Jesus do in regard to this kind of love?

What does Jesus call you, a friend or a servant?

How can Jesus help you?

Reflection (10-15 min.)

Each student will choose one of the readings used above and re-read it. The students will write a short paragraph answering the question: "Who do you think Jesus is, based on this reading?"

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).*

- If you made use of the “Seed Activity” in Lesson 5, have the students check on their seeds.
- Until the next class, consider some of the situations that people “need to be saved from.” You may want to jot down a few notes about this to use in our next class.

Closing Prayer (5 min.)

Prayer requests – Does anyone have something they want to pray for specifically?
Have the students pray aloud.

Scripture References

- Luke 24:13-35
- Isaiah 61
- John 15:9-17