

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children

# Life of Christ

## Who am I?

## Mat. 16:13-26

### Younger Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

### Older Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

### Welcome Time

Have you ever seen someone at school and wondered who they were? When Jesus lived, many people wondered who He really was. Let's see what Jesus' friends think when Jesus asked them the question.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

While Jesus and His friends were traveling around, Jesus asked His helpers, "Who do people think I am?"

They told Him that some people thought Jesus was John the Baptizer who had come back to life, and some said He was one of the prophets who talked to God.

Then Jesus said, "Who do YOU think I am?"

Peter immediately spoke, "You are the Christ from God." This meant that Jesus was picked by God to lead God's people."

Jesus praised Peter for knowing the truth. Jesus gave Peter the name "Rock." It was a way of helping Peter see that He was important and he would one day do mighty things to help people know who Jesus was. Jesus told Peter that he had the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Jesus was telling Peter that he knew the only way to get into Heaven, by believing in Jesus.

Jesus then told His friends not to tell anyone else who He really was because many other things had to happen before everyone would be told.

Jesus explained to His friends that the religious leaders called Pharisees would first reject Him and then finally kill Him. (We talked about them last week. They tried to trick Jesus.) Jesus went on to say that three days after His death, God would raise Him from the dead.

Peter couldn't believe that Jesus was saying these things. He didn't want Jesus to die. So, he went to Jesus and said, "Jesus, this will never happen to you!" Jesus stopped Peter and told him not to try to change His plans. Jesus knew that Peter was thinking Jesus would be a mighty king. Jesus knew that He must be a servant king and die for all our sins so that we

### Lesson Goals

Understand who Jesus is

Learn what it means to say "no" to what you want and "yes" to what God wants

could go to Heaven.

Jesus told His friends that if they wanted to follow Him, they would have to follow His example. They would have to stop thinking only of themselves. They would love God and love others too. They might even have to face people making fun of them and or even being put to death for their beliefs.

Jesus had a chance to be boastful and prideful about who He was. He could have let His friends tell everyone. But He did not do things that way. He always loved people and served them.

Jesus is the perfect example of what love is. He died on a cross for us. He went through all that pain so that we could go to Heaven if we trust and believe in Him. If any of you would like to know how to trust Jesus, we can talk about it. It's the best thing you can ever do.

**Learning Activities**

There is a list of activities in the packet. Use the one(s) that will help your children understand the lesson.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Bring plastic cups for each person and write a word of the verse on each cup. Line up the kids into two teams giving each person a cup (with a word of the verse on it). Now, let both teams try to quickly put the verse in order (each person holding their cup with the verse word on it in the correct order).

**Prayer Time**

It is so easy to take prayer for granted. People quickly pray so they can eat or be about their business. Encourage the kids to see that prayer is a special time that we can talk with God—that's incredible!

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Have fun—let the kids try to guess the treats by playing a fun “Who am I?” about the treat! Enjoy the snacks and be sensitive to kids that may want to trust Jesus with their lives.

Planning for August 17th  
Jesus heals a boy  
Matthew 17:14-23

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Who Am I?

One day while Jesus was talking to His friends, He asked them, “Who do people think I am?”

They told Him that some people thought He was a man named John, and some said He was a man from long ago who talked to God.

Then Jesus asked them, “Who do YOU think I am?”

Peter quickly said, “You are God’s Son.”

Jesus told His friends that some people would not believe Him and then would kill Him. He also told His friends that 3 days later, He would come back to life!

Jesus told His friends that if they wanted to follow Him, they would have to do things like Jesus did. They would have to help others and love everyone.

Jesus loves us so much. He is God’s Son. We need to make sure everyone knows it!

Here’s a song to go with the lesson. It is to the tune of “Where is thumbkin?”

Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
He is God’s Son and He loves us.  
It’s the truth. It’s the truth!

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Who Am I?

Bring Bagels or Donuts. Share that each person will decorate his/her sweet to look like themselves. You may bring thin licorice for hair, raisins for eyes, etc. Let the kids be creative in how they decorate themselves!

Play a fun game of “Who am I?” with smaller kids. Let them take turns choosing a character and letting others guess who it is. If needed, you can write objects on index cards or tape pictures to cards for each person to use.

Ask the kids to make a picture telling who Jesus is to them. Each person can draw a picture of what they think of Jesus or they can write words that describe who Jesus is to them.

Give everyone a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to draw a picture of who they are, not necessarily what they look like, but WHO they are. Compliment each person on their work of art.

Take a picture of each person with a camera. Assemble 4 craft sticks into a square to use as a picture frame. Glue fun things around the sticks like puzzle pieces or little objects that describe the person. Promise to bring developed film next week so that the kids can put their pictures in the frames. (Teachers: if you make double prints, you have a set of pictures for yourself to pray for each child daily.)

Jesus gave Peter the name “Rock.” Do you have a nickname. Peter’s nickname made him feel good and let him know that he would one day do some important things. Sure enough, after Jesus went to Heaven, Peter helped many people know who Jesus really was—God’s Son. Do you have a nickname or a word that describes you? Think of GOOD nicknames for the kids to encourage them and give them hope for what they can do in the future.

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