

Life of Christ

In the Beginning . . .

John 1:1-5

Younger Verse

From the very beginning the Word was with God. John 1:2

Older Verse

From the very beginning the Word was with God. John 1:2

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

What do you think about when you hear, "In the beginning . . ."? Does it remind you of the creation story in the book of Genesis? "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . ." That's what it reminds me of, because those are the first three words of the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. They are also the first three words of the book of John, the fourth book of the New Testament!

What the book of John says, as it begins, is that "In the beginning was the Word . . ." Does that sound kind of funny? That "The Word" was in the beginning? What "Word" could it be? Well, these verses are talking about Jesus! What do you do when you want someone to know what you are thinking? You talk to them, right?! And to talk, you have to use words! God used "The Word," Jesus, to show us what He (God) is like and what He is thinking. Every where that John 1 says "the Word" you can put Jesus' name there because that is exactly what it means. "In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God and Jesus was God." Jesus was in the beginning with God! Jesus didn't just begin in the manger as a little baby. He has been around forever. Just like our memory verse says, "From the very beginning [Jesus] was with God.

But John also tells us that Jesus wasn't just *with* God, He was God! How can Jesus be God? Well, it's kind of like a triangle. Who knows what a triangle looks like? (Let your students offer answers. Have a construction paper circle, square and triangle ready. Let your students choose the correct shape.) Even though a triangle has three points, does that mean it's three triangles? NO! God is like that, too. (Using the triangle, and pointing to each point explain:) There is God

Lesson Goals

Introduce the concept that Jesus **is** God.
Understand that Jesus has been with God since the very beginning.

the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Spirit (or Holy Spirit). Does that mean we believe in three Gods? NO! There is only one God.

Another way to think about it is to think of an egg. (As an illustration, bring with you a boiled egg, halved and with the shell on or a whole boiled egg to be “peeled” as you explain.) An egg has a shell, the white and a yolk. Does that make it three different things? NO! Would that egg be an egg without it’s yolk? NO! God is three in one, like that egg - three parts that make up one whole.

The first chapter of John continues to explain that anything that has ever been created, was created by Jesus, The Word. So when Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” we know that Jesus was in the beginning . . . creating. What kinds of things did He create? (Give your students a chance to answer.) What about spiders and ants and snakes and even poison ivy? Yes, Jesus created even those things. He created everything. There isn’t one created thing that He didn’t make!

But John also tells us that Jesus came as light to a dark place. What happens if you try to walk through a dark room? You usually stub your toe, or stumble and fall over something. But if you have light in that room you can go through that room without running into a single thing. Believing in Jesus is choosing to walk in the Light instead of stumbling around and falling in the dark by making our own decisions. John tells us that Jesus is the Light of men and that He shines in the darkness. Do you have trouble sometimes knowing the right thing to do? Are you “in the dark” because you don’t know Jesus? Choose to follow Him and walk in the Light - He’ll show you the way to go and the right things to do.

Memory Verse Activities

Make a large, floor puzzle before class. Copy the Bible verse onto poster board, covering the entire surface. Then, cut the poster board into large, puzzle pieces. During class, allow students to take turns assembling the puzzle.

Prayer Time

Pray for those who choose to walk “in the dark” instead of walking in the “light of Jesus.”

Clean Up and Snack Time

Offer sandwiches that have been quartered into four triangles, or boiled or deviled eggs. As you give snack and continue with clean up, reinforce the lesson—Jesus is God, and we worship ONE God.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 2
God Sends His One and Only Son
John 1:9-18

Preschool Lesson

Jesus was in the beginning with God ... Creating

Today, we start studying the book of John. It is in the Bible, in the New Testament. (Open your Bible to John 1:1 and show your preschoolers.) The Bible tells us that Jesus has always been with God - even in the very beginning! And "the very beginning" means before there was anything!"

Do any of you remember what the Bible says about "The beginning?"

The very first sentence of the Bible says, " In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." But if the first sentences of John tell us that Jesus was with God, in the beginning, then Jesus was creating the world with God!

Do you remember what kinds of things they created? (Allow your preschoolers to answer, helping them when necessary.)

LIGHT

HEAVEN AND EARTH

LAND AND SEA

PLANTS AND TREES (flowers)

SUN, MOON AND STARS

SEA ANIMALS AND BIRDS (fish, whales, sharks, parrots, robins, parakeets . .)

LAND ANIMALS (cows, pigs, dogs, cats, sheep, snakes . . .)

MAN AND WOMAN (Adam and Eve, with ears, eyes, nose - fingers and toes!)

The Bible says that if anything was ever created, it happened because of Jesus. He created some amazing, awesome things!

Thank you, Jesus, for being with God and for creating a wonderful world!

Activities

- Make an Acrostic with “WORD.” Use words that explain who Jesus is.
For example:
 W - with God
 O - only ONE God
 R - receive Him
 D - don't walk in darkness
- Using construction paper, make triangles, eggs or shamrocks (three green hearts with a triangular stem). Label each point, part or leaf as follows: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.
- Provide coloring sheets from the creation story in Genesis.
- Play Pin the Tail on the Donkey (or a game like it). Blindfold each student and let them try to pin the tail in the correct place. Then remove the blindfold and give them another “tail” and another chance. Talk to them about which was easier (clearly, pinning the tail without the blindfold.) Use this time to explain that our lesson teaches that Jesus came as light in a dark world. Without Him (like being blindfolded), things are difficult because we can not see well. With Him (in the light, without a blindfold), we can see clearly and the way is easier to find.
- Create a Word Search or Crossword Puzzle using words from today's lesson. You might want to use the following words: Word, Jesus, God, Beginning, Create . . .