

Life of Christ

God Sends His One and Only Son

John 1:9-18

Younger Verse

The Word became a human being and lived here with us. John 1:14 (CEV)

Older Verse

The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us. John 1:14 (CEV)

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.

Do you remember last week when we talked about Jesus being with God from the very beginning? Well, where is God? He's in heaven. Then, if Jesus was with God from the beginning, where was He? He was also in heaven! What was Jesus called in the verses we looked at last week? In the beginning was . . . The Word . . . Well, in our verses for this week we learn that "the Word became flesh."

Who knows what flesh is? . . . It means skin and bones, it means to be a human being, like you and like me. So, if "the Word" is Jesus and "flesh" means to become human, then John 1:14 means that Jesus became human! It means God in a human body. When do you think that happened? It was when Jesus grew inside of His mother, Mary, and then was born and laid in the manger. John 1:14 continues to tell us he lived here with us on earth. Can you imagine! Jesus came from heaven to live on earth with us. He didn't come straight down as a king to sit on a throne. And he didn't ride in like a warrior on a big white horse to start a battle. Jesus came from heaven to earth as a little baby who couldn't walk yet, or talk. Jesus, with all the power of heaven, came in the body of a baby who needed His mom and dad to do everything for Him. The One who was with God, creating, in the beginning was now a little, bitty baby. You know why I think that was? Well, we learned last week that "the Word," Jesus, was sent by God to live and grow and to show us what God is like, to explain God to us. And maybe He came as a baby to show us that even as children we can follow God's example. He is our example of what God is like.

As a baby, we need someone to take care of us. And when we are still babies in what we understand about God, we need Him to care for us and protect us because we don't really know much, yet.

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus came from heaven to be born as a baby.
Understand that walking in the Light means to follow Jesus, the true Light, and to follow His example.

As children, younger and older, we need someone to teach us how to do things on our own and how to make the right decisions. And as we grow closer to God and begin to understand Him more, we need Jesus' example - we need to know what God says about things and how Jesus did things and we need to act like Him.

And when we are adults, we should be mature and able to take care of others and help others learn how to do things and how to make the right decisions. And the more and more time we spend with God, reading and studying the Bible and acting more and more like Jesus every day, we should be an example to everyone around us and by the way we live, show them who God is - just like Jesus did.

The book of John continues to tell us that Jesus is the "true light" that came to the world He made and they didn't know Him. He came to the people of His country, but they did not receive Him. They didn't believe God sent Him. They chose to walk around in the dark instead of following Jesus, the Light. But, there were others who believed He was sent from God and "believed in His name," Jesus - which means "God saves." Those who believed became children of God! When we trust Jesus and believe that He was sent from God and when we choose to follow Him, God adopts us into His family! He chooses us as children! Are you a child of God? Do you know that God sent His one and only Son to this world to make a way for you to become His child?! Don't wait . . . Join the family today!

Memory Verse Activities

If you have access to a chalkboard or a white board, write today's Bible Verse on the board before class. When you are ready to work on this week's verse, practice it several times simply by reading it with your students. As they familiarize themselves with the verse, begin erasing random words, practicing the verse after each one is removed until you are left with an empty board and students who know their verse!

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for His gift of Jesus and thanking Jesus for being an example to us in every way.

Clean Up and Snack Time

You might want to make a manger snack by using wheat cereal, binding it together with peanut butter or butterscotch morsels. As your students eat and clean up their areas, reinforce the lesson, stressing that God sent Jesus and that we should follow Jesus and His example.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 3
John Came to Tell About Jesus
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Preschool Lesson

Jesus is Born!

Do you remember learning last week that Jesus has always been with God - even in the very beginning and that he was creating with God?! Do you remember what kinds of things were created by Jesus? (earth, sky, plants, animals, man, moon, stars . . .)

Well, in the book of John where we are studying, we read about Jesus being born. You know, sometimes we only talk about Jesus being born when it is Christmas. And we talk about His birth then, because that is why we celebrate Christmas. But Jesus did not just come so we could think about Him on December 25th. Jesus came to make every day of our lives special. Jesus came to show us what God is like. Jesus came to show us how to live. He is our example.

What kind of things did Jesus do?

He helped people. He made people well. He liked to spend time with children.
He taught people about His Father, God. . . .

So what kinds of things can we do, if we want to be like Jesus?

We can help others. We can help people when they are sick. And we can tell our friends about Jesus.

Pray: Thank you God for sending Jesus! Amen.

Lead your preschoolers in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.
Happy Birthday baby Jesus,
Happy Birthday to you.

Activities

- Play “Blind Man’s Bluff.” Choose a person (or ask for a volunteer) to be blind-folded. Have your other students move around the room and then remain stationary. Have them give clues by saying “light” or “dark” depending on how close the blindfolded student is to catching them. This player will find a student and guess who they are, once caught. And once caught, a student may then become the catcher, or the one blind-folded.
- If your students enjoy drawing, have them draw a picture of someone following Jesus’ example. Continue to reinforce the lesson as your students explain their drawings.
- Take this opportunity to sing Christmas Carols. For example: Away in a Manger, Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem . . .
- Provide Crossword Puzzles or Word Searches using words from the lesson. For example: baby, Christmas, example, flesh or human being, believe . . .
- Provide Christmas pictures for coloring.
- Make a manger with craft sticks (to send home with each student) or construct a life sized one in advance. Provide a bag of straw, shredded gold tissue paper or small strips of golden yarn. Review the lesson, explaining to each student that “hay” will be added to the manger each time they choose to follow Jesus’ example. If possible, leave the manger in your room and continue to use it as a way to share with your students that Jesus showed us what God is like and showed us how to live.