

Life of Christ

Jesus is the One They Have Waited For John 7:10-53

Younger Verse

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)

Older Verse

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)

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.

Have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted? Did you have to wait a long time? How did you feel when you finally got it? Let's see what our Bible lesson tells about a gift that many people had waited for, one for which they had waited a long time.

Our story in John continues after Jesus' brothers left Galilee to go to the feast in Jerusalem. Jesus went to Jerusalem secretly because there were already people who wanted to kill Him, and Jesus knew it was not time for Him to die, yet.

The people were grumbling over Jesus. Some thought Jesus was a good man. Others thought He was teaching lies. But during the middle of the festival week, Jesus went to teach in the temple. The people listened to Him and the leaders could not believe He spoke so well without having gone to all of the schools that they had attended. Jesus spoke and taught well not because He was an educated man. Jesus spoke and taught well because He was speaking God's message; He was saying what God wanted Him to say. And because Jesus was speaking the truth, many people believed in Him; they put their trust in Him as the One whom God had sent.

The people had been waiting a long time for God's promised One, the Christ (or Messiah), Jesus. And even though the people talked about not knowing where the Christ would come from, God had already told them through His Word, the Bible. The Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, tells us a lot about Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. This Old Testament part of the Bible has many promises from God. And we can know that if God promises something, it will definitely happen. God cannot tell a lie.

Lesson Goals

Introduce Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, God's Anointed One.
Introduce Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillments.
Introduce God as a promise keeper, One who cannot lie.

*See Micah 5:2
& Matthew 2:1-6

In the Old Testament, we read that God's Promised One, the Messiah, would come from Bethlehem.* What do we know about Jesus coming from Bethlehem? Well, Jesus' parents were from the city of Nazareth, not Bethlehem, but the emperor of the Roman Empire ordered a census to count everyone. In order to be registered, you had to go to the town of your ancestors, those who lived before you. Joseph, Mary's husband, had to go to . . . Bethlehem. Jesus was born while they were there.

*See Hosea 11:1
& Matthew 2:15

We also read in the Old Testament, that the Messiah would come out of Egypt!* How would God's Promised One come out of Egypt? Well, after Jesus was born, when he had grown a little, and after the wise men had come to visit, Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, had a dream. In that dream, God warned him that the evil king was doing bad things. God wanted them to run to Egypt and hide. Joseph obeyed and took his family to Egypt to keep them safe. They returned after the evil king died.

*See Isaiah 9:1-7
& Matt. 4:12-16

As Jesus spoke and the people began to believe in Him, they were talking about how God's Promised One could not come from Galilee. They did not think anything good could come from Galilee. But in the Old Testament book of Isaiah,* God tells us that Jesus would come "by way of" Galilee. When Jesus and his family returned from Egypt, they moved back to the place where Joseph and Mary had lived before they went to Bethlehem. They returned to Nazareth. The city of Nazareth is in the region, or area, of Galilee. In the book of Isaiah, when the Scripture says that He will come "by way of" Galilee, it then says that "the people who walked in darkness will see a great light." So, when Jesus began His ministry, He came out of Galilee to give the light, or truth, of God to a world that was dark without Him.

We have received a gift from God - a gift that He promised thousands of years ago. He kept His promise and sent us His One and Only Son. Jesus came for you and for me. He came to rescue us from the darkness of not knowing Him to bring us into the light of knowing and trusting and walking with Him forever! Will you accept His gift today?

Memory Verse Activities

Wrap a small to medium gift box. Wrap the top separately from the bottom. Write a word or phrase of the memory verse on strips of paper. Place these strips in the box. Have students "open" the gift and order the strips to reveal the memory verse.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for His indescribable gift!

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 20
Jesus Is the Light of the World
John 8:1-30

Preschool Lesson

God's Gift to You!

Sing: God Has a Gift for You (to the tune of Farmer in the Dell)

God has a gift for you,
God has a gift for you,
Come take the gift that God will give,
God has a gift for you.

Jesus came from God,
Jesus came from God,
Born one night in Bethlehem,
Jesus came from God.

Jesus, gift from God,
Jesus, gift from God,
Jesus died so you can live,
Jesus, gift from God.



Teach: Do you like gifts? I do. I like to give gifts as well and receive them! Have you ever helped pick out a gift for someone? Do you give them something you want or do you try to pick something you know they will love, like flowers for your mom or something for your dad in his favorite color? I like to think about a gift for someone until I know exactly what to get because it is exactly what they would like!

Do you know what? God has given you and me a gift! Do you think God, who loves you more than anyone, decided just to give you the first thing He saw? Do you think He said, "Oh, this will do. It's not very good for him, but I'll give it anyway?" No, God chose the perfect gift for me and the perfect gift for you. It's not a colorful bag or a fast car. God gave us Jesus. He gave us what we needed most. He gave us what we could never have gotten for ourselves.

Did you know that God's gift, Jesus, is not just something you set aside and think about just one day a week for Bible study. You can talk to Him (prayer), and spend time with Him (Bible study), and you can follow Him (obey His commands).

Pray: Thank you, God, for your amazing gift of Jesus.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Provide maps of the Holy Land that also include Egypt (or insert an arrow that points in Egypt's direction). Show students where Jesus was born (Bethlehem), where He and His parents fled to (Egypt) and where He grew up (Nazareth in Galilee).
- Talk about waiting. What do your students think of having to wait? The responses are usually negative. Play Duck, Duck, Goose or Hide and Seek. Afterwards, talk about how exciting it can be to wait! Talk about how rewarding the wait for Jesus was. Talk about how we no longer have to wait for God's gift; God has already sent His Son.
- For older students: Assign older students a prophecy regarding the Messiah. Have them write a newspaper article, draw a cartoon or write an editorial. See page two of this lesson for scripture references.
- For older students: Talk about gifts. Bring several gifts of varying sizes, some wrapped beautifully and some simply taped up in their boxes. Place the "best" gift in a small, unwrapped box. Allow students to choose which gift they might want. Allow them to open the gifts. Talk about the difference of what was found on the inside compared to what the outside of the boxes looked like. Take this opportunity to talk with your students about Isaiah 53:2-3. Jesus didn't look spectacular on "the outside." He did not wear fancy clothes or come as a king with a crown. He was humble. He was obedient to God. He was the best gift God could have ever given us because He was willing to die for us.