

ALL ABOUT JESUS

Lesson 1: Who Is Jesus?

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

The Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would come to this world in human form. In the New Testament, prophecy is fulfilled when Jesus is born of a virgin and spends his life here ministering to people and sharing his message of good news. Jesus was divine humanity—God in human flesh. Through this lesson, students will examine how Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Jesus Christ is God and fulfilled the Scriptures' promise of the Messiah.
2. WHY: Jesus came to Earth as a human to teach, minister, serve, and become the sacrifice in our place, the one who paid the price for our sins and opened the door to eternal life—a fulfillment of Old Testament writings about the Messiah.
3. HOW: Students will examine Scripture about the Messiah and discuss how Jesus was the fulfillment of ancient prophecies—and they'll consider how to imitate his life of humility and love.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 53:1-12

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

John 4:21-26; 10:25-30; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 John 4:9-10

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.



Read Isaiah 53:1-12.



Some skeptics say Jesus was just a great teacher and not really the Messiah, the fulfillment of numerous Old Testament prophecies. Other people would say Jesus was a prophet, who happened to be able to execute miracles—a really gifted prophet. Still others cling to the notion that Jesus is not the Messiah and that the true Messiah has yet to arrive.

However, as followers of Christ, we find evidence throughout the Bible that Jesus is who he claimed to be: the Messiah, the Promised One, the Son of God. Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah include what we read in Isaiah 53.

If you have students in your group who aren't convinced of Jesus' claim to be the Son of God, don't be defensive or assertive—give them space to explore the truths of Scripture and reach their own conclusion. Be prepared to answer their questions, and allow your teenagers to wrestle with the reality of who Jesus is.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- What do you know about Jesus? Bring your answer to small group.
- When friends ask you who Jesus is, how do you respond? Let's talk about it tonight as a group.

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.



Dear parents,

We've launched a two-lesson series that's all about Jesus, and our first lesson focused on the basics of who Jesus is and what the Bible reveals about him.

Our conversation focused on how Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and how he walked on this Earth just like we do. Each of us must consider the question of who we believe Jesus is. Our students spent time together examining what the Bible says about Jesus and how he was the fulfillment of numerous prophecies from the Old Testament.

Here are some questions that can keep the conversation going at home this week:

- Why is the question “Who is Jesus?” such an important question to answer?
- When Jesus was rejected, accused, and beaten, he acted differently than most of us would—what does that reveal about his character?
- What do you find most amazing about God’s love expressed through Jesus, and why?

You also may want to ask your teenager to share with you some of the ideas that he or she has heard about Jesus, and what they think about the religious views of some of their friends.

Have an amazing week!



ALL ABOUT JESUS

Lesson 1: Who Is Jesus?

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Preview the following video for your group: [youtube.com/watch?v=johNLhZ5y48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=johNLhZ5y48)
You will need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then show them the video clip. Then ASK:

- *What's your response to the answers you heard in this video?*
- *If we conducted this kind of survey at your school, would the answers about Jesus be similar or different? Explain.*
- *Why is the question "Who is Jesus?" such an important question to answer?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, and he walked on this Earth just like you and I do. And each of us must offer an answer to that question of who we believe Jesus is. Today we'll spend our time together examining what the Bible says about Jesus and how he was the fulfillment of numerous prophecies from the Old Testament.*

TEACHING POINTS

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) Long before Jesus' birth, Scripture spoke of him and his coming, (2) Jesus was God in human form—divine humanity, and (3) Jesus gave up his place in heaven to become a servant to God's creation.

Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.



LEADER
TIP



LEADER
TIP





LEADER
TIP

Read Isaiah 53:1-12 and John 4:21-26 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's dig deeper to see what these passages reveal about Jesus and the reason he came to us.*

1. Long before Jesus' birth, Scripture spoke of him and his coming

ASK:

- *If you could learn what would happen in the future, what future events would you want to know about, and why?*
- *What do you discover about the Messiah from reading the verses in Isaiah? Which verses particularly sound like they describe moments from Jesus' life? Be specific.*
- *How does the message about the Messiah in Isaiah compare to the verses in John about who Jesus was?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Long before Jesus was born, prophets who heard directly from God and told others the message wrote down the messages that God spoke to them. We know that Jesus is the Messiah because prophets talked about it, and then later on, it happened according to the Word of God/the Bible. These verses from Isaiah revealed details about the promised Messiah—the one sent by God, God's anointed one.*

2. Jesus was God in human form—divine humanity

ASK:

- *Does it matter if Jesus truly was God, and not just a man? Why or why not?*
- *In John 4, Jesus himself declares that he was the Messiah. If that wasn't true, then Jesus was a liar. How can some people say that they don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah but also say that they don't believe that he is a liar?*



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus is the Messiah and willingly came to Earth as a human—but as one who was sinless and perfect. His coming to Earth and telling people that he was the Messiah meant that what Isaiah talked about was true and from God.*

3. Jesus gave up his place in heaven to become a servant to God's creation

ASK:

- *When have you served and helped other people? What do you learn from that kind of experience?*
- *Read Philippians 2:5-11. What does this passage reveal about the significance of Jesus coming to Earth and taking a position of humility?*
- *What are some common human reactions when people criticize us, beat us, reject us, or accuse us of doing things we haven't done?*
- *When Jesus was rejected, accused, and beaten, he acted differently than most of us would—what does that reveal about his character?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *When I think about all Jesus sacrificed to come as the Messiah, it makes me realize how amazing and loving he truly is. He knew that his own creation would reject him, say untrue things about him, and ultimately kill him, but he loves us so much that he was willing to take on all the evil in order to offer us salvation from sin.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *What are your biggest questions about Jesus? What claims or statements or declarations do you find difficult to believe? If you don't find any difficult to believe, how might you respond to someone who isn't sure Jesus truly is who he claimed to be?*
- *Read John 10:25-30. How can this passage help you respond to people who don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God?*



PAIR SHARE



- *Read 1 John 4:9-10. What do you find most amazing about God's love expressed through Jesus, and why?*
- *What is something that you learned or considered about Jesus today that was new?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

APPLICATION

ASK:

- *What is one specific way this week you can practice the kind of humility Jesus demonstrated?*
- *How might you incorporate the question from our opening video into a conversation this week?*
- *What kinds of prayers can you pray this week to ask God to give you the ability to trust in what the Bible says to be truth and to not listen to what others say?*

SUMMARY

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him (1 John 4:9).

