

ALL ABOUT JESUS

Lesson 2: Why Does Jesus Matter?

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

While many teenagers have heard about Jesus and may have some idea of the life he led and the way he ministered to people, many don't understand why Jesus is such a big deal to Christians. This lesson will help your students examine the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf and why his actions and teachings are essential to our faith.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Jesus paid the ultimate price for us through his death—but he also offered a way to abundant life and eternal life through his resurrection.
2. WHY: Jesus loves us and wants us to live forever with him.
3. HOW: Students will examine the basis of the Christian faith by studying why Jesus sacrificed his life for us, and how we are given the opportunity to receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:1-13

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

John 10:1-18

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 1 John 5:1-13. You also may want to reread the previous lesson's Primary Scripture, Isaiah 53:1-12, for a recap of prophetic words about the Messiah.

Without the sacrifice of Jesus, we are forever detached from God and forever full of sin. That's a pretty big deal. Jesus is a pretty big deal.



LEADER
TIP



He paid the ultimate price for us so that we could live in eternity with him.

As we read through Scripture, we again see that what was prophesied by God through Isaiah became reality in the New Testament. Through Jesus—and through his crucifixion and resurrection—we can live forever in heaven.

Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus saved us by dying on a cross, taking on our sin so that we can be reconciled with God. Jesus came so that we might have abundant life and eternal life—hope for today’s challenges and hope for eternity with God.

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.

- Why do followers of Christ think Jesus is such a big deal? Let’s talk about it when the group meets!
- How has Jesus been amazing to you? I look forward to hearing some of your answers tonight!

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 wrapped up our two-lesson series look at foundational truths about Jesus, and in this week’s conversation we talked about why he matters in the lives of those who follow him. We discussed the fact that Jesus came as a sacrifice for our sins so that we could receive forgiveness, live this life with hope, and live forever with God in heaven.



I encourage you to keep the conversation going at home this week. Here are some questions you can ask your teenager:

- We use such words as faithful, sacrificial, loving, and gracious when talking about Jesus—why are those words such powerful attributes in a friendship?
- What do you find most attractive about the idea of spending eternity with God, in God's presence?
- How has God given you hope during your most hopeless moments?

Have a blessed week!



ALL ABOUT JESUS

Lesson 2: Why Does Jesus Matter?

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

You'll need pens and index cards or scrap paper for the opening activity.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then begin with this activity:

Have students form groups of three or four, and distribute pens and index cards or scrap paper to participants. Have each group create a list of characteristics they would find in their truest, deepest, most authentic friend. Give groups a few minutes to complete their lists, and then bring everyone back together to share some of their answers.

ASK:

- *Why would you want to be friends with someone who had these kinds of characteristics?*
- *Which specific words from these lists apply to Jesus?*
- *We use such words as faithful, sacrificial, loving, and gracious when talking about Jesus—why are those words such powerful attributes in a friendship?*



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *In our previous lesson, we saw how Isaiah 53 contained prophetic words about the Messiah—words written long before Jesus was born. You see, Jesus came to Earth to be sacrificed for our sin—a reminder of his love for each of us. Jesus was the Messiah and had a mission to complete here on Earth. Our faith is rooted in the fact that Jesus died on a cross to pay the price for our sins. His sacrifice makes it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins and to spend eternity with God.*

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) Jesus' death opened the door to forgiveness, (2) Jesus offers eternal life through himself, and (3) Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection offer us hope.





LEADER
TIP



LEADER
TIP

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.

Read 1 John 5:1-13 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's spend some time talking about this passage of Scripture and find out more about why Jesus matters so much.*

1. Jesus' death opened the door to forgiveness

ASK:

- *What's the most loving sacrifice you've ever witnessed or experienced? Why was it so meaningful?*
- *If you've received forgiveness for your sins, how might that affect the way you live? What impact might that have on your choices, your attitude, your perspective, and your thoughts?*
- *How would your life look if you were forever burdened with your sin, shame, and guilt?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *I don't think any parent can imagine sacrificing his or her only son, let alone sacrificing him for a bunch of people who hated him. That is how much God loves us, though. God was willing to sacrifice Jesus so that we can be forgiven of our sins.*

2. Jesus offers eternal life through himself

ASK:

- *What does the phrase "eternal life" mean to you? How would you explain it to a friend?*
- *Which verse from this passage presents the clearest message about why eternal life matters?*
- *God's Word says that through Jesus, and his death on the cross, we can have eternal life. What do you find most attractive about the idea of spending eternity with God, in God's presence?*



- Many people believe that if they are good and do good things they will get to heaven. How is that idea different from what Scripture teaches

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *God loved us so much that he gave up his Son to suffer, be mistreated, and die. Jesus died so that we would have the chance to live forever in God's presence—an incredible expression of love. And then God gives us the choice of accepting the gift of salvation through Jesus. God doesn't force us to accept it—but faith in Christ is the only way to receive the gift.*

3. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection offer us hope

ASK:

- When teenagers feel hopeless, where do they often turn for answers, or how do they attempt to numb the pain?
- How is God's hope different from the idea of hoping for a truckload of Christmas gifts or hoping to make the basketball team?
- How has God given you hope during your most hopeless moments?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus' death and resurrection provide the way for forgiveness and eternal life—and they also make it possible for us to experience true hope. This is the kind of hope that's rooted in truth, rooted in trust, rooted in God's incredible love and mercy for us. Instead of feeling like life is pointless, we can pursue our Christ-centered purpose. Instead of wasting our lives, we can pass along the hope of Jesus to others. It is an incredible gift made possible through Jesus—another reason why Jesus matters.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

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

ASK:

- Read John 10:1-18. What statement or image do you find most intriguing in this passage, and why?
- Look at verse 10. What are some specific ways you see the thief attempting to fulfill his purpose in our world today?



PAIR SHARE





- *What do you believe Jesus means in that same verse by the statement about his own purpose? How has he given you a rich and satisfying life?*
- *How can you become more familiar with the voice of the shepherd, Jesus?*
- *How has Jesus been amazing to you?*

APPLICATION

ASK:

- *If a friend asked you why Jesus matters, how might you respond?*
- *As you go through your day, what are some specific ways you can remember the sacrifice Jesus made for you and the amazing gift of life with God forever?*

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

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.

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life (1 John 5:11-12).

