

LESSON 26

Jesus Claims to Be God

JOHN 10:22-30



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, IS GOD AND IS ONE WITH THE FATHER IN HEAVEN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 10:22–30 from the Scriptures or read story 104, “Jesus Claims to Be God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large capped plastic soda bottle
- ✓ marble that fits through the top of the bottle

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Counting the Promises

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 26—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

God Is Incomprehensible

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus is the Good Shepherd—Isaiah described God this way: “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11). By calling himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Jesus identified himself with the prophetic messianic Shepherd of Isaiah. Ezekiel prophesied, “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy” (Ezekiel 34:15–16). Jesus was saying that he was the one about whom Ezekiel prophesied. The Jews didn’t believe and thought Jesus was crazy.

Jesus is the door—Jesus also described himself as the door to the sheepfold (John 10:9). Later Jesus would make it plain that no one can go to heaven except through him (John 14:6). The door is the only way in. And, everyone who comes in through the door will be saved. Jesus is the only way to eternal life! We can’t work our way in, buy our way in, or sneak in. The Jews would not be able to make it in by following the law; they had to trust in Jesus.

Jesus is God—When Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, he was hinting at his deity. Some of the Jews thought he was crazy, but others wanted to hear more because of Jesus’ miracles. Finally the Jews gathered round him and asked Jesus directly if he was the Messiah. Jesus responded with the most severe judgment. First, Jesus said those gathered were not a part of his flock. That meant, if Jesus were the Messiah, those particular Jews would not go to heaven. Next, Jesus did something that really angered them. Not only did he not deny he was the Messiah, he claimed to be God! Jesus called God his Father and told them that he is one with the Father. That was enough for the Jews, who then picked up stones to kill Jesus. Yet Jesus did not shrink back. To make things clearer, he said that he was the Son of God, God was his Father and the Father was in him, and he was in the Father. At that point, when they tried to arrest Jesus, he escaped.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

John 10 is one of the clearest pre-cross explanations of the ministry of Jesus. The gospel is explained throughout the entire shepherd/sheep analogy. Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. There is no mistaking the gospel here. Perhaps the most beautiful verse in the entire chapter is verse 18, where Jesus demonstrates his incredible love for us all. Jesus said that his death is his willing choice for his sheep. The transfiguration showed that Jesus had not lost his awesome power. If he had wanted to escape the cross, he certainly had the power to do so. But he chose, instead, to lay aside his power and willingly give up his life for us.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 10:22–30 from the Scriptures or read story 104, "Jesus Claims to Be God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large capped plastic soda bottle
- ✓ marble that fits through the top of the bottle

Call three volunteers to the front of the classroom and tell them you have a puzzle to solve before you read the Bible story for today. Show them the marble and the bottle and ask them

if there is a way to get the marble into the bottle without damaging the bottle. Give them a few minutes to think.

They will decide that the only way to get the marble inside the bottle is to drop it through the opening.

Then ask them if they could damage the bottle how would they get the marble in. (They will likely come up with different ideas like make a slit in the bottle.) Follow up their ideas by asking how many ways there would be then to get the marble inside. (If they put a slit in the bottle or cut another hole in the bottle there would then be at least two ways to get the marble in the bottle.)

Thank them for coming forward and then use this analogy to help the children understand that when Jesus said he was the gate, he was saying that he is the only way to get to heaven. Have the children turn in their Bibles to John 14:6 and tell you how that verse fits with what Jesus teaches in this today's passage.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Counting the Promises

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Read through John 10 and make a list of the promises we receive as the sheep of the Good Shepherd. Here are a few:

- The sheep know the shepherd's voice (vs. 4).
- The sheep entering through the gate will be saved (vs. 9).
- The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (vs. 11).
- The Good Shepherd knows his sheep (vs. 14).
- Jesus gives his sheep eternal life, and they will never die (vs. 28).
- No one can snatch the sheep away (vs. 29).

Discuss the importance of these promises with the class, asking for their input and thoughts.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 26—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What are the Jews holding in their hands?**
(They are holding stones to throw at Jesus.)
- **Why were the Jews going to stone Jesus?**
(They thought Jesus was a mere man, but he claimed to be one with God, the Father.)
- **What words did Jesus say that really upset them?**
(Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.”)
- **Did they stone Jesus and kill him that day?**
(No, it was God’s plan for Jesus to be crucified. They tried to grab hold of Jesus but he slipped away. Jesus would not be captured until it was his time to go to the cross.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

God Is Incomprehensible

Talk about John 10:38 and tell the children that this is an example of just how amazing God is. Ask them to describe to you how Jesus can be in the Father and the Father in Jesus. Or read John 10:30 and get them to explain to you how Jesus and the Father could be one when

they are separate persons. (Note: Don't get into theological trouble. The point of talking about this is to help the children understand that we cannot fully understand God. He is holy and completely different than we are. In fact, what we understand about God is what he has told us.)

One of the main assaults of some cults is to say that the word Trinity is not in the Bible, as if believing in the Trinity is to believe something unbiblical. God is infinite and incomprehensible, thus we cannot fully grasp his nature. But we do understand that the Father is God, the Eternal Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. These three enjoy total unity of essence. So we see in the Bible a tri-une (three-one) God. We use the word trinity because it is the best word we have to describe what God has said about his nature in the Bible.

LESSON 26 - JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD

