

LESSON 26

Jesus Claims to Be God

JOHN 10:22-39



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 1)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 26—one for each child; markers or crayons

Who Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: puppet (optional)

They Picked Up Rocks to Stone Him

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a baseball-sized rock (rough, not smooth)
- ✓ a length of rope

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In this lesson the children will learn that Jesus is God, one with his Father in heaven!

Before class take a sheet of paper and draw a large “G” on one side and a large “J” on the other side.

In class show the children the capital “G” and say that God the Father is a person. Then turn the paper over and show them the letter “J” and say that Jesus, the Son of God, is also a person. Then tell the children that God the Father and God’s Son, Jesus, are one God, just like there is one sheet of paper.

Finally, ask the children if they can remember the name of the third person of God (or the Trinity). The answer is the Holy Spirit. If you have triangle blocks in your classroom you could use a block and draw each side with an initial to represent each of the three persons in the Trinity.

Take time to pray and thank God for the mystery of the Trinity. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 1, “God Creates the World,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What did Jesus say that made the Jews upset?**
(Jesus said things that, if true, would make him God; e.g., “I give eternal life,” “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,” and “I and the Father are one.”)
- **Why did the Jews pick up stones to throw at Jesus?**
(The Jews thought that Jesus was only a man who was lying when he claimed to be God. Claiming to be God, or blasphemy, was a crime punishable by stoning.)

- What evidence did Jesus give to back up what he was saying?

(Jesus said, “Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father” [John 10:38].)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- What animal did Jesus say his followers were like?

(Jesus said his followers were like sheep.)

- What does Jesus do for his sheep?

(He speaks to them, he knows them, he gives them eternal life, and he protects them so that none are taken away.)

- What do the sheep do?

(They listen for Jesus’ voice and they follow him.)

- What lessons can we learn from this?

(We are the sheep who need to listen for Jesus and follow his voice. His voice, God’s Word, is written down for us. If we follow Jesus, we will receive the blessings he promised to his sheep.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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 could not be captured until it was his time to go to the cross.)

Who Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet (optional)

This week’s passage—John 10:22–39—tells us much about who Christ is. Ask the children what we learn about Jesus from this passage. Read the passage slowly and have a helper assist the children with the answers.

- Jesus is all-powerful—he performs miracles (v. 25).
- Jesus is eternal—the one who gives eternal life must also have it (v. 28).

- Jesus and the Father are both separate and also one (vv. 29–30).
- Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus (v. 38).
- Jesus claims to be God (v. 33).
- God is his Father (vv. 25, 37–38).
- Jesus controls all things (vv. 25, 39).

After you finish the list, see how many of the children can remember something from the list. You can use a simple puppet as though he were one of the children and have him answer a few of the more difficult ones. The repetition will help the children remember what you taught.

They Picked Up Rocks to Stone Him

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a baseball-sized rock (rough, not smooth)
- ✓ a length of rope

Read the story and, as you get to the part about the Jews picking up rocks to stone Jesus, show the children the rock and have them line up and tap the rock with their knuckle to see just how hard it is and how much it would hurt if someone threw it at you.

Explain to the children that the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Savior and they did not believe he was God, so they wanted to kill him.

When you get to the part about Jesus escaping the people who are trying to arrest him, pull out the rope and ask for a volunteer. Tie the volunteer's hands loosely behind his back and then ask him to try to get away. He will easily be able to get away. Explain that the people could not do anything to Jesus that he did not allow them to do. Even when Jesus died, the Bible tells us that he willingly gave up his life (John 10:18).

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 26 - JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD

