

LESSON 62

The Supremacy of Christ

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23



BIBLE TRUTH

CHRIST IS SUPREME OVER ALL

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 Colossians 1:15–23 from the Scriptures or read story 140, “The Supremacy of Christ,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Who Created What?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ wooden spoon
- ✓ penny
- ✓ wool socks
- ✓ nail

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

We Are Weak but He Is Strong

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical balloons filled to the same size with identical ribbons. (Have one balloon filled with helium and one filled with regular air. Note: If you use latex balloons you will need to fill the one with helium in the morning as helium escapes from latex. Mylar balloons will hold their helium for days but are harder to fill by mouth.)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 62—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN
9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Christ, the Image of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ digital camera
- ✓ computer
- ✓ printer to print photos of the children in your class. (Take photos the week before and bring them in printed, or take the photos and print them right before their eyes.)

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Christ is head over creation—Paul spends most of the first chapter of his letter to the Colossians exalting Christ. It is here that we are explicitly told that by the Son of God “all things were created” (Colossians 1:16). One can almost hear him praising aloud as we read, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation” (Colossians 1:15). This opening description of Christ is similar to John’s description: “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known” (John 1:18). Not only did the Son create the world, but he also sustains it and holds it together. To feed the five thousand, Jesus multiplied the bread and fish. When Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves, they listened. And when Jesus commanded Lazarus to come forth, he came forth. Jesus could command the creation because he was the creator.

Christ is head over the church—Christ is head not only over the original creation but also over the new creation—his body, the church—that comes via the Holy Spirit (Colossians 1:18). Christ has supremacy over all things. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and his taking of our punishment gave us peace with God.

Christ’s death on the cross opened the way to restore creation to its proper order—The entire creation was affected by the fall—Adam’s sin. Romans 8:20–22 tells us that all of creation was frustrated and affected by the fall but that one day the creation will be liberated from this curse of sin and destruction. Until this happens, however, creation is groaning. This does not mean the creation is actually making noise but that it needs to be fixed. Just like a crooked picture on the wall seems to say, “Straighten me up,” so the creation is in need of restoration. In Colossians 1:20 we see just how creation will be fixed. Not only does Christ’s sacrifice reverse the curse of sin in the lives of those who believe, but it also reverses the curse that the sin of Adam brought upon the world. This will happen at the end of the age, when Jesus returns.

Where Is the Gospel?

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

After introducing the peace that resulted from Christ's sacrifice on the cross in Colossians 1:20, Paul goes on to more fully describe this wonderful miracle. Because of our sin, we were separated—alienated—from God as his enemies (Colossians 1:21). Right from the beginning with Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin separated us from God. Recall how, after they sinned, Adam and Eve's instinctual reaction was to hide from God (Genesis 3:8). From that day on, mankind was separated from God, becoming his enemy and sinning against him willfully.

But Paul tells us that now, through the sacrifice of Jesus, people can be reconciled to God. Not only that, but also our sins can be taken away so that we are presented blameless—without sin. We who have been saved are called to "continue in the faith... not shifting from the hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1:23).

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 Colossians 1:15–23 from the Scriptures or read story 140, "The Supremacy of Christ," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Who Created What?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ wooden spoon
- ✓ penny

- ✓ wool socks
- ✓ nail

This exercise is designed to help us appreciate Christ's supremacy in creation.

Hold up one item and ask the class if anyone can name the item and tell you how it was created. They will likely only share the manufacture of the item and call it by its manufactured name. When you have gone through all four items, point out that none of the children spoke of God's role in the creation of the items.

For instance, the wooden spoon was formed by a woodcarver out of a tree that was created by God. The penny consists of copper and zinc, metals that God created when he formed the earth. The wool came from a sheep that was created by God. The nail was formed from iron ore mined out of the earth, which God created.

Talk to the class about our tendency to forget God and exalt man. Tell them that Paul in the first chapter of Colossians wanted to do just the opposite—Paul wanted to exalt Christ.

Take time to read Genesis 1 and talk about how amazing it is that God created all things out of nothing at all.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

We Are Weak but He Is Strong

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical balloons filled to the same size with identical ribbons. (Have one balloon filled with helium and one filled with regular air. Note: If you use latex balloons you will need to fill the one with helium in the morning as helium escapes from latex. Mylar balloons will hold their helium for days but are harder to fill by mouth.)

The object of this exercise is to show how little power we have.

Have a volunteer to help you with this demonstration. Hold up the balloon filled with air and let go of it, allowing it to fall to the floor. Ask the volunteer to pick up the balloon and hand it to you. Then explain that when you drop the balloon again, you want them to command the balloon to stop and rise. (They may look at you like you are crazy, but have them do it anyway.) You can repeat this with several volunteers to give more of the children a chance to participate and emphasize the point you are trying to make.

Of course, they will not be able to control the balloon. Repeat the exercise with the helium balloon and another volunteer, only this time they should command the balloon to fall. Again, they will be powerless to make the balloon obey.

Ask the class the following questions:

- **Why couldn't you control the balloons?**
(We have no power over the balloons.)
- **Who alone has power over these balloons to command them?**
(Jesus has authority over all creation and could command the balloons.)
- **How would you compare man with Christ when it comes to power?**
(Christ has all power and authority over man and man has no power or authority over Christ.)
- **Does that mean people should obey Christ?**
(Yes, we should obey Christ.)
- **Why don't we obey Christ?**
(We don't obey because we are stained with sin and, even after we believe, we still want to go our own way and rebel against God.)
- **Why is doing what we want such a crime against God?**
(God, the Creator, created us to obey and follow him, but we do not. We fight God's plan by sinning.)

Help the children see how sin is an act of pride. Talk to them about how the punishment for sin is death, but how God did not destroy man instantly when he sinned. Instead, because of his mercy God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for our rebellion. On the Day of Judgment, when Christ returns, he will destroy sin and death. All those who believe will go to be with him to heaven where will be no more sin. Then we will

fully obey God's commands. In the meantime, Christians desire to show their love for Christ by obeying him.

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 62—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

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

- **Where is Jesus in the picture?**
(Jesus is in heaven on his throne.)
- **Who is Jesus in charge of?**
(Jesus is in charge of everything that was ever made—the angels in heaven and the whole earth below.)
- **What does it mean for Jesus to be the head of the church?**
(He is the leader of the church.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Christ, the Image of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ digital camera
- ✓ computer

- ✓ printer to print photos of the children in your class. (Take photos the week before and bring them in printed, or take the photos and print them right before their eyes.)

The object of this lesson is to demonstrate how a picture is an image of a person. Then you can talk about how Christ is the image of God, who is otherwise invisible to us.

Take a photo and show it to the class. Ask them whose image it is. Do this again and again, until they understand that an image is a representation of the original.

Finally, ask them who Christ is an image of. The answer of course is the invisible God. See Colossians 1:15.

LESSON 62 - THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

