

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

In Him All Things Hold Together

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ balloon (inflated)
- ✓ pin
- ✓ inexpensive necklace that if the string is cut, the beads will fall apart
- ✓ stack of paper squares with a rubber band around them

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

We Can Create, Too

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ play dough—enough for every student to have a small ball

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Creating Creation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

What Do We Learn about Jesus?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Colossians

The church in Colossae was not directly planted by Paul. In fact, it is likely that Paul never visited Colossae (Colossians 2:1). The Colossian church was planted by Epaphras, who Paul calls a faithful minister of Christ (Colossians 1:7). In Acts 19:10, we are told Paul’s ministry in Ephesus resulted in all of Asia hearing the gospel. It is likely that Epaphras heard the gospel as it spread from the people in Ephesus. Epaphras was eventually held with Paul as a prisoner (see Philemon 1:23). In fact, Epaphras seems to have been with Paul when he wrote to the Colossians (Colossians 4:12–13).

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**

In Him All Things Hold Together

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ balloon (inflated)
- ✓ pin

- ✓ inexpensive necklace that if the string is cut, the beads will fall apart
- ✓ stack of paper squares with a rubber band around them

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate that all things are held together by the active will of Christ.

Hold the paper squares by the rubber band and say, “If God were to stop holding this building together the whole structure would collapse.” Cut the rubber band and let the paper squares fall to the floor. Explain to the class that much of our body works without us having to think about it: our hearts beat, we breathe, and we blink automatically. God is in control of all things. He has the hairs of our head numbered.

Hold up the necklace and say, “If Christ were to cease sovereignly holding us together we would fall apart.” (Cut the string and allow the beads to fall.) Finally, hold the balloon and say, “Down to the smallest atom all creation is held together by Jesus. If he were to stop holding it together every last particle of matter would cease to exist.” Puncture the balloon with the pin.

Go on to talk about the amazing power of Christ and share how he humbled himself to become a man to die for us.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

We Can Create, Too

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ play dough—enough for every student to have a small ball

Pass out the dough and ask each student to think of a part of God’s creation they would like to model with their dough.

Give them five minutes to fashion something out of play dough. Once the class has finished, put all their creations on the table and ask the class to comment on what they see. They can identify the items and who created each one and why.

Ask if it is appropriate to use the word “creation” when we describe modeling something with the dough? (Yes, it is appropriate to say we can create things.)

Then ask if they can name an animal who might also be able to mold the items like the class displayed on the table. Could a bird create these? A dog? A monkey? (The answer is that we are the only creature who has the power to create. Some animals can manufacture a thing, but only humans can create original designs.)

Finally ask them to explain why we can create and the rest of the creatures God made cannot. (The answer is that we are created in God’s image to be like God.)

Take time to thank the Lord for the wonderful gifts he has given us and for making us in his image.

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

Creating Creation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Direct the class to draw a picture of some aspect of creation. Have each one draw something a little different. One may choose to draw a picture of a mountain; another, a picture of their family; etc. At the top of their pages have all the students write, “In him all things hold together.” Make a large mural on the wall with all the drawings and then talk to the children about how your class’s mural is a good illustration of Colossians 1:15–17.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **20 MIN**

What Do We Learn about Jesus?

SUPPLIES

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Have the children read through the first chapter of Colossians and list everything they learn about Christ from this passage. Discuss their findings as a class and come up with one complete list on the whiteboard.

Ask, “If all we had was the first chapter of Colossians, would a person be able to learn the gospel?” (Yes, the gospel message is contained in this chapter. Take time for the children to point out the gospel.)