

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by the Father to save us from our sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 16:13-23, Peter's Confession

MEMORY VERSE:

"May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is." Ephesians 3:18 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Most people have heard of Jesus, but many don't really understand who he is. Even when Jesus walked the earth, most of the people who he met didn't "get it." Kids will learn that Peter was one of the first to truly recognize that Jesus is God's Son.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us your Son Jesus.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“May you have power with all God’s people to understand Christ’s love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is.” Ephesians 3:18 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today’s story.

SKIT

PSST! WHO IS JESUS?

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two trench coats
Two pairs of shades
A folder full of “secret” documents

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Kim - A girl with questions
Clint - A mystery man with answers

Clint enters from stage left in a trench coat and shades. He stands calmly at center stage. Kim enters stage right in a trench coat looking sneaky. She looks both ways. She’s clearly up to something and trying not to look like it, which only makes it more obvious. Kim walks up to Clint.

KIM: Are you the guy I’m supposed to meet?

CLINT: I wouldn’t know anything about that.

KIM: Oh right. I’m supposed to say the pass phrase, right?

CLINT: Pass phrase? What’s a pass phrase?

KIM: Sorry to bother you.

Kim starts to exit.

CLINT: Do you mean, “The pearl is in the river?”

KIM: How did you know the pass phrase?

CLINT: Because I’m the guy you’re here to meet.

SKIT

KIM: But you said—

CLINT: Shhhh!

KIM: Ohhhh, right. Sorry.

CLINT: So you got questions?

KIM: Well, just one actually.

CLINT: Whatcha wanna know?

KIM: I wanna know who Jesus is.

CLINT: Jesus? That's a pretty big question. What have you heard?

KIM: Some say He's Elijah.

CLINT: Wrong.

KIM: Some say He's John the Baptist.

CLINT: Wrong again.

KIM: Do you know the answer or not?

CLINT: Of course I know it. *(reaches into his trench coat and pulls out a file)* It's all there.

KIM: *(opens the file)* He's the Christ? The Son of God?

CLINT: Shhhhh!

KIM: Is He really God's Son?

CLINT: Based on the testimony of His closest friends and thousands of witnesses and millions of followers – I'd say that's a big Yes.

KIM: Did He really, you know, fulfill His secret mission?

CLINT: He did, and there's no secret about it. He died for our sins so He could give us eternal life.

SKIT

KIM: That's so exciting. I can't believe it. But if this is no big secret, why are we sneaking around in a parking garage like spies instead of sharing it with the world?

CLINT: Because we look cool in trench coats and shades.

KIM: Good point.

CLINT: The world is curious about Him. We need to tell everyone. Don't keep this one under your hat.

KIM: I'm not wearing a hat.

CLINT: Good. That makes it easy. If you have any more questions, you'll know where to find me.

KIM: Thank you.

CLINT: A spy never says thank you.

KIM: I'm not a spy.

CLINT: In that case, you're welcome.

Clint exits stage left. Kim exits stage right.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

“Hello My Name Is” name tags

Have you ever been some place where they made you wear one of these? We often wear name tags on the first day of school so our teachers and classmates can get to know our names. But knowing our names doesn't mean they know who we are. We are not just Sarah or Adam or Melinda or Daniel. We are soccer players, artists, musicians, writers, basketball players, sons and daughters, and so much more!

Most people know the name Jesus, but not everyone knows who Jesus is. The Bible teaches us that Jesus is God's Son. It tells us that Jesus gave up His throne in Heaven to live as a man on Earth. It tells us He died for our sins so that He could give us eternal life.

Jesus has changed the lives of millions of people over the centuries. Though no one living today has seen Him face to face, many know Him as their Savior and will tell you He changed their life. Who is Jesus? He is the Christ. He is the Son of God. He wants to save you from your sins!

LARGE GROUP GAME

TWENTY QUESTIONS

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Pick three famous people or characters the kids will know, and play up to three rounds of 20 questions with the two players alternating questions. Questions must be yes or no questions only. The first player to correctly guess the secret person twice wins.

VARIATION:

You can limit the total number of questions to 20, ten a piece, or you can leave it open ended for younger kids.

Try to pick people the kids can easily get to.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Who is Jesus? He is God's Son!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by the Father to save us from our sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 16:13-23, Peter's Confession

INTRO:

Curiosity is a human trait that gets a bad rap. We've all heard the phrase, "Curiosity killed the cat," and there's definitely some truth to that statement. But curiosity has led to so many discoveries. It was curiosity that led Louis Pasteur to discover germs and how to fight germs.

Curiosity led people to sail across the Atlantic and discover America. Curiosity led humans to not only explore every land on Earth, but the depths of the oceans and the far reaches of space.

We are all curious about one thing or another. If I were to look at your record of checked out library books or your search history on Google, I'm sure we'd find all sorts of curiosity in here. Some of you are curious to know more about history. Some are curious about sports and sports heroes. Some are curious about famous historical figures or celebrities. Some of you are probably very curious about the next Marvel and Star Wars movies.

Many people, whether they are religious or not, are curious about Jesus. There's no denying that more than two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus from the town of Nazareth walked the Earth. There is too much evidence to deny that He existed and that He had a major impact on our world. But many people are curious to know if Jesus really is who we claim to be. Was He just a man? Was He a good teacher, or a prophet? Was He a phony, trying to pretend to do miracles? Or was He something more?

Over the next four weeks we're going to ask and answer questions curious minds have asked for thousands of years. God is not afraid of our questions about Jesus because God knows those questions will lead us to the truth.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We're going to start with the most basic question of all: Who is Jesus? That's a question Jesus Himself put to his disciples, and it was one of His most outspoken disciples who first gave us the answer.

READ MATTHEW 16:13-23

MAIN POINT:

The people who saw Jesus in person perform miracles and teach were astonished by Him. Jesus was a simple carpenter by trade, not a priest or a scholar, and yet His teachings astounded them. Some people thought He might be a prophet, like the Old Testament prophet Elijah. Some thought He was simply a good man or a good teacher. But the men who knew Him best saw the truth. Jesus was the Christ. He was God's Son in the flesh!

God had long promised to send a Savior to Earth, and Jesus had come to save the whole world from sin. Jesus was the only man who never sinned, and His death on the cross paid the price for all of our sins. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God not simply because of what Peter said, but because of what Jesus did and how His life has changed so many lives, even to this day!

DRIVE IT HOME:

In spite of Peter's confession and the words of the Bible, there are people today who think Jesus was just a man. They consider Him a great teacher, maybe even a prophet, but not the Son of God. There's an excellent book called *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell that says Jesus could not be just a good man. Based on the Bible, He had to be one of three things: a liar, a lunatic, or the Son of God.

You will notice in today's scripture Jesus does not correct Peter. He tells his disciples to keep it quiet for now, but His answer shows Peter was telling the truth. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God! A "good man" or "good teacher" would not allow His followers to think He was God's son. Either Jesus was lying to them, which would mean he was not a good man, or He was out of his mind, or He was who Peter said He was.

It's unlikely so many people could have been fooled by a liar or a lunatic, and it's almost impossible that so many people would lay down their lives for Him. If it was just a lie, or if Jesus was out of His mind, someone would have figured it out, someone would have spilled the beans. Peter was one of ten disciples who would die for believing in Jesus, one of millions in the history of the church. Their courage and their faith show us they were fully convinced Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. They died so that we might know that we can trust our lives to Jesus as well.

Who is Jesus? He is God's Son. He is our Savior. He is more than a good teacher or a prophet. He is the only one who can save us from sin.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

If you're curious to know more, I invite you to come back the next three weeks. God is not afraid of your questions. He wants to answer them. He wants you to not only know who Jesus is, but know Him as your Savior!

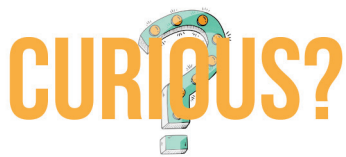
CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us your Son Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you know why your parents gave you the name they gave you?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ephesians 3:18

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play one or two rounds of 20 questions with the kids, as time allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 16:13-23

What question did Jesus ask His disciples?

What answers did they say the people gave about Jesus?

Who did Peter say Jesus was?

What did God send Jesus to do?

How do we know Jesus is God's Son?

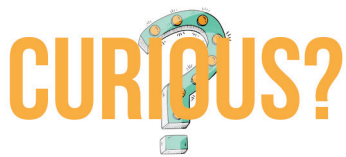
SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you know why your parents gave you the name they gave you?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ephesians 3:18

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play one or two rounds of 20 questions with the kids, as time allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 16:13-23

Why did people think Jesus was a prophet?

Why did Peter answer the way he did?

What did God send Jesus to do?

How do we know Jesus is God's Son?

If someone asked you, who would you say Jesus is?

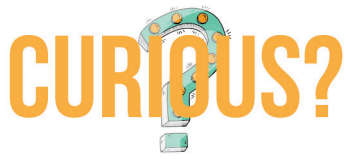
SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was.

TRUE

The disciples said that the people were saying Jesus was the Son of God.

FALSE

Peter was first to say Jesus was the Son of God.

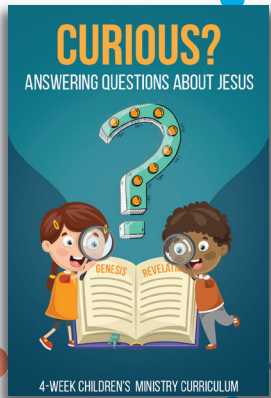
TRUE

Jesus was a good man and a good teacher, but He was not God.

FALSE

God sent Jesus to die for our sins.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Curious Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: WHO WAS JESUS?



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Most people have heard of Jesus, but many don't really understand who he is. Even when Jesus walked the earth, most of the people who he met didn't "get it." Kids will learn that Peter was one of the first to truly recognize that Jesus is God's Son. Matthew 16:13-23, Peter's Confession



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids if they have questions about who Jesus is, or anything related to faith. Take the time to look for answers with them, in the Bible or online or using another resource. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," but don't give up looking for answers for them or for yourself.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was the first person to say Jesus was the Son of God?
- Why did God send Jesus?
- What would you tell someone who asked you who Jesus was?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is." Ephesians 3:18 (NIRV)



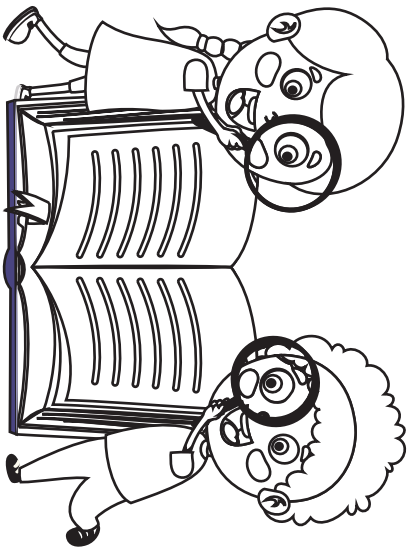
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that He alone can forgive our sins and give us eternal life. The Bible makes it very clear Jesus was God's only Son. If you have questions about Jesus, seek out the answers. Read the Bible, Google it, but above all, pray for God to reveal the answers. He is not afraid of your questions!

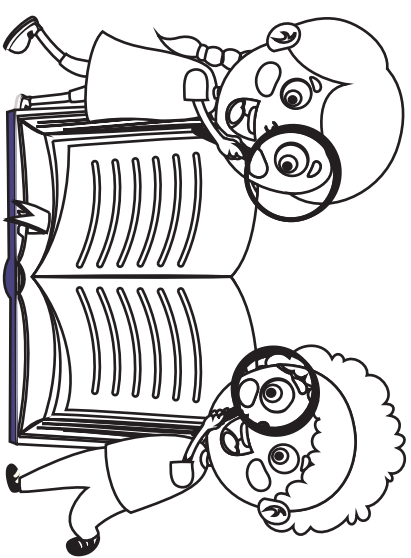
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week, have the kids make a game card (like Trivial Pursuit) or flash card with the week's question on one side and the answer on the other. The kids can write these themselves or cut out typed questions and answers to glue on note cards. The kids can then decorate the cards with crayons.



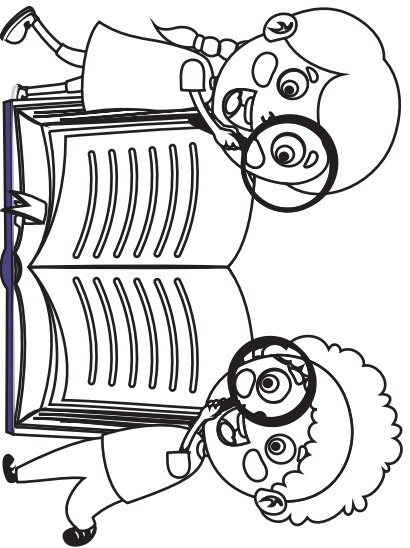
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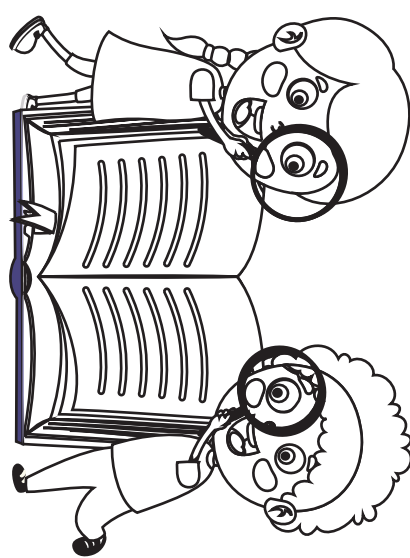
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