

Lesson #4: Jesus, The Messiah

Welcome Prayer and Review of previous week: Jesus, Lamb of God (15 minutes)

- **John the Baptist Testifies**

John the Baptist is the prophesied messenger who prepares the way for the coming Messiah.

He has been set apart from birth. An angel announced his coming birth to Elizabeth, Mary's cousin.

He has a large revival-like following. It marks the first occurrence in the Bible of baptizing for the repentance of sins.

His message is "Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand."

He catches the attention of the Priests and Pharisees who ask about him. John gives them his testimony about Jesus.

When John sees Jesus coming, he introduces Him by saying of the most important lines in the entire Bible. "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

This introduces us to Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry, and tells us exactly what his mission is, which is to "take away the sin of the world".

Jesus doesn't come just to make our lives better, or to change the political climate. Jesus comes as Savior. He is "God-Sent" for this purpose.

Class Questions:

1- Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God? (an unblemished lamb was sacrificed during each Passover and delivered them from death while in Egypt. Jesus offered himself as the perfect lamb, conquering power of sin and death.)

2- What is repentance? (a turning away from sin, confession of our sin to God and agreeing with God about sin.)

Jesus came to show that it is not about religion but about our repentance and change of heart.

- **Jesus' Baptism**

Jesus starts his public ministry with His baptism by John the Baptist.

Jesus' baptism was for righteousness, not repentance.

It was a sign for us that He was coming to take away our sins.

The heavens opened and the Spirit of God descends on Jesus as a dove, and God spoke giving His approval. His ministry is now public and God-approved.

Class Question:

3- John the Baptist baptized with water, what did Jesus baptize with? (Holy Spirit)

This is the first time we meet Jesus as an adult. We don't know much about his earlier life but we do have his genealogy, witnesses, and the prophecies leading up to this point. From now on, things will begin to move quickly as Jesus begins his 3-year mission.

- **Jesus' Temptation**

Following His baptism, Jesus is tempted in the desert.

This timing is important, because before He starts to minister to the people, He is tempted in all the same ways we are tempted so He can sympathize with our weaknesses.

Class Question:

4- What are the ways Jesus was tempted?

(Lust of the eyes – to provide for yourself

Lust of the flesh - to protect yourself

Pride - to exalt yourself)

Jesus responds to temptation by using God's Word. He shows us that having a relationship with God is true living, and not that which comes from earthly pleasures.

- **Jesus Chooses His First Five Disciples**

The excitement starts to build as Jesus chooses the men who are to be His disciples. As they begin to ask Jesus questions, He responds by telling them, "Come and see."

Class Question:

5- Who is the first disciple? (Andrew)

John is the next disciple. Both he and Andrew were followers of John the Baptist.

Then Andrew tells his brother Simon that they found the Messiah. Jesus names him Peter.

Next is Phillip. Jesus tells him to "follow me."

Then Phillip tells Nathaniel, who says, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Jesus sees him coming and says, "Behold an Israelite indeed, of whom there is no deceit", and it's as if Jesus already knew all about him.

- **Wedding at Cana**

Jesus performs his first miracle.

Jesus creates new wine from the water they poured into containers. It is fully matured wine. We see the attribute of Jesus the Creator in this miracle.

It is a joyful time of celebration.

Class Question:

6- What happened as a result of Jesus performing this miracle? (His disciples believed him.)

Miracles are to strengthen our faith.

Homework Discussion – In small groups (30 minutes)

Choose a few questions ahead of time from each of the five daily studies to discuss in small groups, or you can use the sample questions below.

Study 1: The Preaching of John the Baptist

- Page 46 - Questions 1, 2

Study 2: The Baptism of Jesus

- Page 49 - Questions 2, 5

Study 3: The Temptation of Jesus

- Page 50 – Questions 1, 5

Study 4: The Testimony of John the Baptist

- Page 54 – Questions 4, 11

Study 5: The First Miracle of Jesus

- Page 56 – Questions 1, 4

Lesson Intro for video: Jesus, the Messiah (5 minutes)

- We now begin to see Jesus as the Messiah.
- Messiah means “Anointed One”. Anointing was reserved for prophets, priests, and kings among God’s people. Jesus fulfills all three.
- We start to see Jesus interacting with all people – Samaritan woman at the well, Nicodemus the Pharisee, the royal official whom he heals his son, and people from his hometown.

Video Lesson (45 minutes)

Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)

- What new or significant things did you learn from the lesson on how Jesus interacted with people?
- Share prayer requests with your group.

Ending Prayer (5 minutes)