

### **Lesson #6: Jesus, Equal to God**

#### **Welcome Prayer & Review of previous week: Jesus, The Healer (15 minutes)**

- Jesus is now halfway through His first year of ministry:

Review so far: Jesus was baptized, tempted in the desert, John the Baptist testifies Jesus is the Lamb of God, Jesus calls His first disciples, performs His first miracle at the wedding feast, cleanses the temple at Passover, meets with Nicodemus of the Jewish Sanhedrin and tells him "for God so loved the world...", proclaims He is the Messiah to the Samaritan woman at the well, heals the Royal official's son, and is rejected in hometown of Nazareth.

- Jesus is moving toward people in His mission. Jesus loved people. The crowds are getting larger, and we see the difference he is making in people's lives. But Jesus doesn't stay in one place. He has come for all people.
- *Where did Jesus set up His headquarters?*
  - a. *Capernaum. Jesus ministers from here, but He will come and go.*
- *Why do you think He chose Capernaum?*
  - a. *In Galilee, occupied by Rome, fishing industry, lots of trade and people from different countries.*

Isaiah said this area lived in darkness but would see a great light.
- This is a turning point in Jesus' ministry when He begins to say "Repent, the Kingdom of heaven is here", and I am the One to lead you into it. It was His first command – repent.
- As Healer, Jesus healed every kind of disease and large numbers at once. Wherever He went, disease was gone. They were in the presence of the Kingdom of God, and Jesus brought joy and light wherever He went. The purpose of healing was to point to God – healer of souls, and our greatest need.
- *What were some of the unique ways that Jesus healed?*
  - a. *With only a word; brought people back to life (Creator); healed all people; healed the demon-possessed; touches the leper and he is healed (unclean to touch); paralytic from the rooftop – "your sins are forgiven"; healing was immediate and complete as in Peter's mother-in-law.*
- *What was the opposition from the Pharisees and Scribes to His healing?*
  - a. *Blasphemy – speaking wrong about God. Only God can forgive sins.*
- *Why did Jesus not want the demons revealing who He was?*
  - a. *He did not want the testimony of demons to identify Him.*

- Jesus chooses Matthew, the tax collector, as His disciple. Matthew was full of joy at this, he left everything, and invited his rowdy friends to dinner to meet Jesus. Jesus is enjoying their company and teaching them. Jesus exhibits joy and grace.

### **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 first disciples and the Galilee ministry

- Page 78 – Questions 1, 2, 6

Study 2 - Many are Healed

- Page 80 - Questions 1, 3, 4, 12

Study 3 – Leper in Galilee

- Page 83 - Questions 1, 4, 7, 8

Study 4 – Paralytic in Capernaum

- Page 85 - Questions 3, 4

Study 5 – The Call of Levi (Matthew)

- Page 86 - Question 2, 3, 5

### **Lesson Intro for video: Jesus, Equal to God (5 minutes)**

- Jesus was claiming God as His own Father, therefore making Himself equal with God. No one had called God “Father” before Jesus.
- Jesus’ actions show his Deity: heals on Sabbath, speaks with authority, gives life, casts out demons, backed by Scripture. We’ll hear in this video lesson about the four witnesses to Jesus’ claim.
- The Pharisees grow more angry at this claim, instead of seeing Jesus for who He really is.

### **Video Lesson (45 minutes)**

### **Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)**

- Is Jesus God? Discuss the four witnesses to Jesus’ claim that He is equal to God.
  1. John the Baptist came as messenger to pave the way for the Messiah.
  2. Jesus’ works and miracles.
  3. Jesus’ baptism and the voice of God saying “This is my Son.”
  4. Fulfilled prophecies from Scripture.
- Share prayer requests with your group.

### **Ending Prayer (5 minutes)**