



The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ

Leader's Guide for Two-Hour Class

Lesson #1: Jesus, Preexistent Creator

Duration	Activities
Pre-class	Meet and Greet <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance form• Name tags• Books
15 Minutes	Welcome Prayer and Class Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction, Contact information• Study Info (Book Layout, Class Structure)• Housekeeping (Bathrooms, Cell phones, Childcare)• Conversation Respect (Privacy, Participate, Allow room for others to participate)
30 Minutes	Table Discussion – In small groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get to know each other, Share – thoughts, testimony about Jesus
5 Minutes	Lesson Intro for video: <u>Jesus, Preexistent Creator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What aspect of nature do you appreciate the most?• How do you think God felt when creating the world?
45 Minutes	Video Lesson
20 Minutes	Discussion & Table Prayer Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How are the events of the Garden still significant today?• What is grace? How did God display it?• Any new concepts about Jesus, Preexistent Creator?• Share prayer requests with your group.
5 Minutes	Ending Prayer

Lesson #2: Jesus, God-Sent

Welcome, Prayer and Review of previous week: Jesus, The Preexistent Creator (15 minutes)

- Jesus was not created but has always been. He did not first arrive as a baby in a manger.
- He is the Creator. He created our world “with joy” and for our delight.
- Jesus is the Joy-Giver. He wants to give us joy.
- Jesus is God. He has all the same attributes as God.
- Jesus said that He came down from heaven. It was an act of love for His creation. He brought joy and life.
- Sin robs us of joy. Sin is the promise of something good by doing wrong.
- When God says don't do something, He means “don't hurt yourself.”
- The only one that can free us from our sin is a Savior. Hope was on the way.

Class Review:

1. *What was Adam's sin? (direct rebellion against God)*
2. *How did God show grace to Adam and Eve after they sinned? (He clothed them with animal skins, the first sacrificial shedding of blood)*
3. *What is one thing you learned about the Creator this last week?*

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 use the suggestions below.

Study 1 – Joy in the Lord and Creation

- Page 10 - Question 1, 2, Application

Study 2 – Jesus who existed before time, space, matter

- Page 12 - Question 2, 3, 6

Study 3 – Rebellion: Man's joy lost

- Page 15 - Question 1, 10, 11

Study 4 – Consequences of Sin

- Page 17 - Question 1, 2

Study 5 – A Savior is on the way

- Page 19 - Question 2, 5, 6

Lesson Intro for video: Jesus, God-Sent (5 minutes)

- From the genealogy leading up to Jesus, to the promises and prophecies, and the angel's announcement that a Savior was coming to save His people from their sins, we will see how God uses an imperfect people to carry out His plan.
- Even today, we get to participate in God's plan.
- Hope has arrived.

Video Lesson (45 minutes)**Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)**

- What new or significant teachings did you learn from the teaching?
- Share prayer requests with your group

Ending Prayer (5 minutes)

Lesson #3: Jesus, Lamb of God

Welcome, Prayer & Review of previous week: Jesus, God-Sent (15 minutes)

- Prophetic messages from the OT foretold of the coming Messiah.
- OT points to the NT – what was concealed is now being revealed.
- *Do we delight in God?*
- *Abrahamic covenant had three promises: what were they? (land, descendants, and blessing)*
- Davidic covenant was that a king would remain from his line
- At the fullness of time the Messiah would come (Galatians 4:4-7).
 - *What does the fullness of time mean? (The timing was right, both political and geographical. The Greek language was a one-world language for all. The Roman road system made communication easier).*
 - *Optional: How is the world being prepared for the fullness of time for Jesus' return?*
- The angels announce the pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary.
 - *What is Zachariah's response?*
 - *What was Mary's response?*
- Mary visits Elizabeth and is filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Elizabeth worships; Mary worships
 - Joy, joy, joy
- The angels announce the birth of Jesus.
 - *Where is the announcement?*
- The magi visit and learn of Herod's plot to kill baby Jesus.
- Jesus matured and at 12 years old, He lingered behind at the temple. He was articulating His mission!
- We don't know anything directly from Scripture about His life, but we do know that He was raised in the Jewish traditions of apprenticing with Joseph, learning the Scriptures, and actively participating in family and community.

Class Review:

1. *Who orchestrated the events of Jesus' coming to earth?*
 - a. *God sent Him.*
2. *Name three men in the genealogy of Jesus?*
 - a. *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Perez, Ram, Amminadab, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David*
3. *There were several women in the line of Jesus that were also mentioned. Which woman hid the spies?*
 - a. *Rahab*
4. *What Moabite woman was devoted to her mother-in-law?*
 - a. *Ruth*
5. *Who got pregnant by her father-in-law?*
 - a. *Tamar*

6. *Who was in the temple of the Lord burning incense when an angel of the Lord appeared?*
 - a. *Zacharias*
7. *What is Mary's song called?*
 - a. *The Magnificat*
8. *Who was Elizabeth and Zachariah's child?*
 - a. *John the Baptist*
9. *What was his role?*
 - a. *Forerunner to Jesus*
10. *Who was Anna?*
 - a. *Prophetess. Widowed, 84 years old, tribe of Asher, advanced in age, never left the temple, serving night and day with fasting and prayers*

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 use the suggestions below.

Study 1 - The Genealogy of Jesus

- Page 25 - Question 2, 4

Study 2 – Prophecies and Promises

- Page 27 - Question 1, 6
- Page 30 - Question 2, 3

Study 3 – Zacharias and Joseph

- Page 33 - Question 4, 5

Study 4 – Birth and Dedication of Jesus

- Page 35 - Question 1, 4
- Page 37 - Question 2, 5

Study 5 – Childhood of Jesus

- Page 40 - Question 1, 2, 7

Lesson Intro for video (brief Introduction): Jesus, Lamb of God (5 minutes)

- John the Baptist came preaching a message of repentance and baptism, to make way for the coming Messiah. When he saw Jesus coming to him, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
- After Jesus is baptized, the Spirit of God descends as a dove and a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in who I am well-pleased."
- Jesus now begins his ministry – both public and God-approved.

Video Lesson (45 minutes)

Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)

- What did you learn about John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus?
- How do you relate to the temptation of Christ?
- What did you learn about the first miracle at the wedding feast?
- Share prayer requests with your group.

Ending Prayer (5 minutes)

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 prepared 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 – 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 descended 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 three-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."

- **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 use the suggestions 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)

Lesson #5: Jesus, the Healer

Welcome, Prayer & Review of previous week: Jesus, The Messiah (15 minutes)

- Jesus had been in Capernaum and walked to Jerusalem. It was 120 miles. The population of Jerusalem was 30,000-50,000, but at Passover it would swell to more than 300,000.
- The Temple was the center not only of spiritual life, it was the center of the Jewish culture. The further you went inside, the holier it became. The outer court was for Gentiles to worship.
- Jesus was angry that the Temple had been turned into a marketplace; animals were being sold and money exchanged. Jesus made a whip and cleared the Temple. It was ordered chaos.
- Jesus entered as a carpenter, but made a stand for His house.
 - “For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.”- Psalm 69:9
- People started to believe in Jesus because of the signs and wonders He was performing.
- Nicodemus – Jesus spoke about the need to be born again from above. Nicodemus thought that he would get into heaven because of his heritage. Jesus stated you must be born again.
 - No man can save himself; this is the work of God.
 - John 3:16 Jesus came to save the world, not just the Jews.
 - People don't accept Christ because of a lack of understanding; it is because they would have to change.
- Jesus made no distinction for salvation and He made the point with three different people:
 - Jews: John the Baptist stated, He must decrease so Jesus could increase.
 - Gentiles: Woman at the well. She asks for a drink of the living water Jesus talked about, then Jesus confesses being the Messiah.
 - Romans: Jesus healed the Royal official's son who was dying. The official express faith that his son would be healed if Jesus only said the word.
- Jesus experienced personal rejection
 - For His own people: believing is seeing.
 - He came to set the captives free.
 - After Jesus' teaching on Isaiah, His hometown rejected Him as Joseph's son. They tried to throw Him off a cliff.

Class Review Questions:

1. *On Jesus' first visit to the Temple in Jerusalem, what does He do?*

- a. *He cleanses the Temple of the merchants and money changers.*
2. *To whom did Jesus say, "For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son...?"*
 - a. *Nicodemus*
3. *What does it mean to be "born again?"*
 - a. *A new spiritual birth imparted by God to those who believe in Jesus.*
4. *What is the background of the woman Jesus meets at the well?*
 - a. *She is a Samaritan; a social outcast.*
5. *What did Jesus reveal to her?*
 - a. *He was the Messiah; He was the Living Water*
6. *What city did the woman at the well evangelize?*
 - a. *Sychar in Samaria*
7. *How did Jesus show His deity with the woman at the well?*
 - a. *He told her everything she ever did.*
8. *How did Jesus heal the royal official's son who was in Capernaum?*
 - a. *He spoke healing*
9. *Why was Jesus rejected in Nazareth the first time?*
 - a. *"No prophet is welcome in his Hometown."*
 - b. *He did not meet their "expectations" as Messiah.*

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 use the suggestions below.

Study 1 – Cleansing of the Temple

- Page 61 - Question 4

Study 2 – You Must Be Born Again

- Page 63 – Questions 4, 9, 10

Study 3 – John's last testimony

- Page 65 – Questions 5, 6

Study 4 – Woman at the Well

- Page 67 – Questions 1, 6
- Page 71 – Questions 3, 11

Study 5 – Rejected at Nazareth

- Page 74 – Question 3

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

- What do you do when you are sick?

- What types of healing do we need?
- If God heals, why do we need doctors?

Video Lesson (45 minutes)

Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)

- What was miraculous about Jesus' healings?
- Why did Jesus heal people?
- Did Jesus heal everyone?
- What is the most significant healing you have experienced?
- Share prayer requests with your group.

Ending Prayer (5 minutes)

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: 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 home base?*
 - 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. 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 use the suggestions 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)