

LESSON #3 HOPE GROWS AS WE LEARN ABOUT OUR SAVIOR

- A Savior became necessary when Adam and Eve fell into sin. God promised that Savior, kept the line of the Savior alive through Noah, then focused the promise on Abraham and his family. When the time was right Jesus came. He was conceived by God the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way and born of a virgin named Mary.

I. JESUS' DEEDS

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. Because of a great crowd, they can't get their paralyzed friend to Jesus. How did they solve this difficulty? _____
2. You might have expected Jesus to immediately heal this man. Instead, what are His first words to the man? _____
3. Why were the religious leaders upset about Jesus' statement? _____

4. Jesus confronts them with their sin by asking them a question. What? (v9) _____

5. After asking them that question, Jesus heals the man. But notice, Jesus gave a reason for doing this miracle. What was the reason? (v10) _____

6. In this section Jesus showed Himself to be true God in a number of ways. Can you name at least three? _____

II. JESUS' TEACHINGS

Read Luke 15:11-24

1. After demanding his inheritance from his father, what does the young man then do with it? _____
2. Why do you think he went to a distant country to live that way? _____

3. When the inheritance runs out and a famine hits the region, the young man has to find a job. As he's slopping the pigs, what did he long to do? _____
4. Finally, he decided to go back. Why must that have been hard for the young man to do?

5. In v20 we hear the father's reaction. Describe it. _____
6. In forgiving his son, how many conditions does the father attach? _____
7. The young man represents us, the father represents God. What does God want us to learn about Him from this section of Scripture? _____

III. JESUS' PERSON

Some helpful passages:

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

1. "The Word" is another name for Jesus. What is "the Word" called in this passage? _____

Rom. 9:5 **Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!**

2. Over how much does Jesus rule? _____

John 5:23 **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.**

3. What kind of honor is to be accorded to Jesus? _____
4. What do these passages teach us about Jesus' person? _____

More helpful passages:

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

John 4:6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well.

Luke 24:40, 42-43 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ... They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things

5. Look only at the underlined words. Are these things which happen to you or apply to you? What truth do these passages teach us about Jesus' person? _____
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IV. WHY DID JESUS NEED TO BE BOTH TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN?

Some helpful passages:

Matt. 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Gal. 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

1. God's requirement to enter heaven is _____. Since we can't do it, we needed a Savior who could _____

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, ...

Hebr. 2:14-17 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, the devil -- ... ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, ... that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

2. The fair punishment for sin is _____. We therefore need a Savior who could _____
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In order to live under the law and in order to be able to die, Jesus had to be _____

Ps. 49:7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him ...

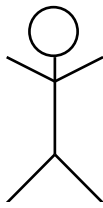
1John 2:2 He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. It's impossible for my death to pay for your sins. We needed a Savior who is true God so that His death _____

2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. God demands a perfect life if we are to enter heaven. We needed Savior who is true God so that His life _____

In order for His life and death to count for everyone, Jesus had to be _____



God's Great Exchange



Summary:

- We needed a Savior who was truly human so that He could live a perfect life and be able to die.
- We needed a Savior who was true God so that His life and death could count for everyone.
- Through His words and deeds, Jesus proved Himself to be both true God and true man. He is exactly the Savior whom we need.

Joy and mirth - God came to earth! Hope grows!

FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK

1. Complete the homework sections below.
2. To build up your knowledge of God's Word, memorize these passages:
2 Cor. 5:21 **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God**
John 5:23 **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.**
3. Memorize the New Testament books of the Bible, Matthew through Revelation.
4. Study Addendum #1, the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, and Luther's explanation of it.
5. Suggested daily reading: Mark 15-16; Philippians 1-4; Psalm 51

If Jesus is God, He should have authority over all things. Read the sections below, briefly state what happened, and indicate over what Jesus showed His power and authority.

John 2:1-11 _____

Mark 4:35-41 _____

Mark 1:21-28 _____

John 11:1-44 _____

Multiple Choice. Place an X before the answer which is most correct.

1. Jesus Christ is
 - a. ___ a great man, but not the true God.
 - b. ___ true God, but not really a true man.
 - c. ___ both true God and true man.

2. The reason Jesus had to be truly human is
 - a. ___ so that He could live under the law and die.
 - b. ___ so God could finally understand how hard it is to be human.
 - c. ___ so He could show us how we can live good enough lives to earn God's favor like He did.

3. The reason Jesus had to be true God is so He could
 - a. ___ amaze people by performing miracles.
 - b. ___ live and die for all people of all time.
 - c. ___ teach us that we are little gods like He is.

4. The main reason for Jesus doing miracles was
 - a. ___ to prove that He's the true God, with the authority to forgive sins.
 - b. ___ to prove that we should help people who can't help themselves.
 - c. ___ to attract a crowd to Himself.

5. Jesus has existed
 - a. ___ only since His birth
 - b. ___ since just before creation, when God the Father made Him.
 - c. ___ always. There's never been a time He didn't exist.

Study John 18-19. After reading those chapters, put the following events into the correct order. (i.e. #1 before the first event, #2 before the second event, etc.)

- _____ Pilate has Jesus whipped and brought before the crowd dressed as a "king."
- _____ Jesus goes willingly with a band of soldiers who had been sent to "capture" Him.
- _____ Jesus declares the work of salvation "finished."
- _____ Jesus is taken before Annas, the former high priest, then eventually to Caiaphas, the present high priest.
- _____ Jesus is taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.
- _____ Jesus provides for his mother by asking a disciple (John) to "become her son."
- _____ Jesus is sentenced to crucifixion and is put to death between two thieves.
- _____ Soldiers break the two thieves' legs, but don't break Jesus' legs. They do pierce Him with a spear.
- _____ Simon Peter denies three times that he knows Jesus.
- _____ Jesus is buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb.

Thought Questions:

1. In this lesson we learned two main truths about Jesus: He is 100% God and 100% human. In your own words, why are both of those facts so vital for your salvation?

2. Why are you glad to know that Jesus is 100% human, just like you are?

3. Why are you glad to know that Jesus is the 100% God, the ruler of all things?

4. **John 5:23** says, *“He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.”* In other words, if you reject Jesus you have rejected the true God.

John 14:6 Jesus says, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Some religions say that Jesus was a great prophet, but not the true God. Evaluate that teaching and determine what the implications of it are.

Write the passages, from memory if possible.

2 Cor. 5:21 God _____ him who _____ no _____ to be sin _____ , so that _____ we might _____ the _____ of God.

John 5:23 that all may _____ the _____ just as _____ honor the _____. He who _____ not _____ the Son _____ honor the _____ , who _____ him.

Bible Books (Write, from memory if possible, the books of the New Testament.)

Addendum #1

Jesus said that in the last days many false teachers would arise. Because that happened and continues to happen, the church has periodically felt it necessary to make simple, public declarations of the truths of the Bible so that what the church believed and taught would be clear to everyone. The Apostle's Creed is one such declaration of faith. It was developed in the 100's as a confession which adults could give before they were baptized.

The Apostle's Creed (so-named because it's an accurate reflection of what Jesus and His apostles had taught) presents what the Bible teaches about God and does so in an organized, simple fashion. It can be divided into three sections -- also called "articles" -- each section basically corresponding to one of the three persons in the God-head. Below is the Apostle's Creed.

The First Article: *I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.*

The Second Article: *I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

The Third Article: *I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Martin Luther was a pastor in Germany in the early and middle 1500's. Recognizing the great difficulty which many people have in teaching the Bible to their children, Luther wrote the Catechism. The Catechism, like the Apostle's Creed, presented the truths of the Bible in a simple, orderly way. The difference is that the Creed was meant to be used in worship services and was quite short. The Catechism was longer, to be used as a teaching aid.

As a part of the Catechism, Luther wrote explanations of the three sections of the Apostle's Creed. (He did this by compiling the applicable passages from the Bible and then summarizing them.) Because they are a good, accurate summary of Biblical truths, we still use them today. Below is Luther's explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed.

The Second Article: *I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, ...*

(see above)

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.