

TEACHING NOTES



Jesus is the promised Messiah of God (Matthew 1:1-2)

God is the promise giver and keeper

The term Messiah means "anointed one" (Hebrew and Aramaic)

The genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1)

God's Word is authentic and authoritative

The virgin birth (Matthew 1:18)

 \bowtie Christ is sinless because He is the Son of God; man is sinful because he is the son of Adam

SESSION THREE

KEY VERSES

Matthew 1-2:1, Isaiah 9:6-7 John 1:12-14, John 1:29

KEY THEMES

Christ is sinless because He is the Son of God; man is sinful because he is the son of Adam

Jesus is the Word and person of God made flesh, dwelling among us

INTRODUCTION

SESSION THREE

The significance of the virgin birth

Everyone is born in the sin of Adam

For more on our state of sin in Adam see Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:22

The incarnation of Jesus reflects His deity and humanity (John 1:12-14 & Isaiah 9:6-7)

 \vdash Jesus is the Word and person of God made flesh, dwelling among us

Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29)

God communicates His redemptive plan through the person of Jesus

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' –John 1:29

Lesson Objective:

Jesus has always been God's answer for man's sin and restoring our broken relationship with God.

PERSONAL STUDY

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind

Before you start, quiet your heart and mind. Ask God to help you focus on what He wants to communicate to you.

God reveals His plan of redeeming people by sending Jesus

Jesus was the Messiah for whom the Jews had been waiting. The Messiah was God's promise to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15), to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), and to King David (2 Samuel 7:4-16). Most of the Jews in Jesus' day expected that the Messiah would come as a king and free them from political oppression. They were looking for a literal, physical kingdom on this earth. However, we see from scripture Christ coming as the Lamb of God fulfilling God's prophetic promises. God chose to send His divine and eternal Son as a human being to live among people.

Read Matthew 1:18-25

What was God communicating through the humble circumstances of Jesus' birth, considering that the Jews expected their Messiah to come and rule as a king?

What was God's purpose in sending Jesus? (See verse 21)

What does the name Immanuel mean? (See verse 23)

What was God demonstrating by having Jesus live among the people?

God shows His deep desire not only to solve our sin problem, but to do it in a way that allows us to grow through an intimate relationship with Him. Are you experiencing a personal relationship with God? Describe how this plays out.

Key verse

Put to memory John 1:29. Use the scripture card provided by putting it where you can see it throughout the day.

Prayer time

In your own words, tell the Lord how thankful you are for His sending Jesus to not only to save you but also to have a personal relationship with Him.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Whenever you spend time reading and studying God's Word, you should ask God to prepare your heart and mind to receive the truth that He has for you. Take a moment to do this now.

Jesus' primary mission

Read John 1:29-34

What did John say was God's main purpose in sending Jesus into the world?

While Jesus' ministry was very diverse and included all sorts of activities - teaching, feeding multitudes, casting out demons, healing the sick, caring for the poor - God first and foremost sent Jesus to the world as the final resolution for the problem of sin.

What do you think is the primary benefit of the gift of salvation?

Read Colossians 1:21-22. Reflect on how God reconciled us from our sin and restored our relationship with Him through Jesus.

How does God see you as a result of being reconciled to Christ? (See verse 22)

Our tendency as humans is to see how we can use God to fit into our plans or to meet our needs. Instead, we should realize that God created us for His purposes. As our Owner, we should seek out how God desires for us to fit into His eternal plans and purposes.

What things are you doing in your daily life to pursue His plans and purposes?

Key verse

Continue learning John 1:29. See if you can write it out from memory.

Prayer time

Thank God for the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God who took away your sin and restored your relationship with God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you beliefs or values that are obstacles keeping you from allowing

God to direct the way you live your life in light of His redemptive purposes.

PARENT GUIDE

As parents we are responsible to teach our children about God. As you go through Equipping the Church this parent guide will provide simple ways for you to share what you are learning about God with your kids. Use these Table Talk questions to start a conversation around the table, driving down the road, or wherever you have a bit of extra time with your kids.

Table Talk

What is the best present you have ever received?

God gave us a very special gift through his son, Jesus. What do you think that gift is?

Jesus took the punishment for all the things we do wrong (our sins) by dying on the cross for us. This is the best gift of all! How can we share this gift with others?

OPTIONAL STUDY

James 4:8 says that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. What a promise! One of the key ways we can draw near to the Lord is to spend time reading the Bible and meditating on the truths of scripture. The additional study is a tool designed to help you do just that by revisiting the main themes found in the lesson.

\square	Read Ror	mans 3:21	-28

How are we made right in God's sight according to the verses you just read?

What do the words "faith" and "believe" mean in this passage? (Hint: read Hebrews 11:1)

We see that believing in Jesus means that we are fully convinced that He is the Son of God and that His death on the cross has paid for our sins. (Rom 3:25) In James 2:17, faith is described as a belief that is so "alive" that it produces action! Faith in the Son of God is a belief so strong that it actually causes us to leave our old lives of sin to follow Jesus.

Can we boast that we have done anything to be accepted by God? (Romans 3:27)

Romans 3:23 says that we have all fallen short of God's glorious standard and because of this we deserve punishment. God, in His great mercy, has instead, offered us freedom from the penalty of sin through faith in His Son Jesus. It is humbling to realize that the free gift of God's grace to mankind cost the Father so dearly in the death of His Son. What a great God we have!

SESSION THREE