

Lesson 123

The Gospel Truth

Each Gospel account shares unique aspects about Jesus.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and tell God thank you.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who do both the Old Testament AND the New Testament tell us about?
Jesus, our Savior.

Why was Jesus born as a baby? So that he could die to save sinners.

Did Jesus ever do anything wrong (sin)? No. Jesus is perfect with no sin.
Who is Jesus? Jesus is God the Son.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Today, we are going to look into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. I want everyone to count with me up to the number _____. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) As we say each number (or word), you will carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Hand the Bible to the first student. Here we go!

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 121 Flip Chart. We learned that in the Old Testament God told his people about the Savior that would come to save sinners. Then the New Testament tells the exciting news that the Savior has come!

Refer to Lesson 122 Flip Chart. We know that we can trust the New Testament because the Holy Spirit helped the writers know what to write and because the disciples were eyewitnesses of the things Jesus did.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Today we're going to look at the first four books of the New Testament called the Gospels. The word gospel means "good news." These Gospels tell the good news of Jesus, but they're not all the same. Each writer wrote about Jesus in a special way and told about different things he did.

Have copies of At the Fair Instructions and cue cards ready for volunteers to read.

To help us understand this, I have four friends here who will tell us about their day at the fair. We'll see how all four of them did the same things but tell about them differently. Follow the At the Fair Instructions.

Each person said something a little different, didn't they? They told what was most important to them. That's how it is with the four Gospels. Four different men wrote these books, and they each told what they thought was important about Jesus' life.

Matthew

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. First is the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector until he became a disciple and followed Jesus. Matthew

started his Gospel with a genealogy. That's a list that tells who is in your family line, like parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on.

Matthew 1:1

Listen as I read Matthew 1:1. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

Who is this genealogy about? Jesus.

Matthew wanted to show the people something important about Jesus' family.

What two men were part of Jesus' family line? David and Abraham.

In the Old Testament, God promised Abraham and King David that the Savior and King who would reign forever would come from their families. The Jewish people knew about these promises, so when they heard someone had been called "Son of David," they knew he must be the Savior and King God promised.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. In his Gospel, Matthew wrote about many times when people called Jesus the Son of David. He wanted to make sure the people understood that Jesus is the King they were waiting for.

Mark

Refer to the Flip Chart. Next is the Gospel of Mark. Mark was not one of the 12 disciples, but he was a friend of Peter—one of Jesus' close friends. Mark wrote this Gospel to show something else about Jesus.

Mark 10:45

We can read about it in Mark 10:45. Read the verse.

Why did Jesus come to earth? What is the first reason given here? To serve.

God the Son, the King of kings, came to serve others—not to be served himself! Usually a king wants others to serve him and do things to make him happy. But not King Jesus—he came to serve us!

What else did Jesus come to do? To give his life as a what? As a ransom for many.

A ransom is something you pay to free a slave. We are all born as slaves to sin, so we want to do wrong things. The only way to be set free from sin is for a person who has never sinned to pay the ransom for us. Jesus never sinned, and he died on the cross to pay the ransom for sinners—that's us!

Refer to the Flip Chart. In his Gospel, Mark wanted to make sure people understood that Jesus loves us and came to serve us by dying on the cross so that everyone who believes in him could be set free from sin.

Luke

Refer to the Flip Chart. Let's look at the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a doctor and a friend of the Apostle Paul.

Luke 19:10

Let's find out what Luke tells us about Jesus in Luke 19:10. Read the verse.

What is Jesus called in this verse? The Son of Man.

Luke often called Jesus the Son of Man. It means that, even though Jesus is fully God, he was born as a baby and grew up to be a man.

And why did Jesus come? To seek and to save the lost.

Jesus came to seek, or search for, those who are lost in sin so he could save them. The lost are sinners—like you and me! Jesus wants to save us from the punishment of sin. He already paid the ransom when he died on the cross. But the Bible says that we must repent of our sins and put our trust in Jesus.

To repent means to be truly sorry for our sins and turn away from them so that we don't live in our sins anymore. When people repent of their sins, it's because they love God, and they want to please him by obeying.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Luke tells us that Jesus is the Son of Man—he was fully man AND fully God. He came to seek and to save those who are lost in sin so that they can repent by turning away from their sins and turning to Jesus in faith.

John

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now let's look at the Gospel of John! John was a close friend and disciple of Jesus.

John 20:31

John tells us why he wrote about the things Jesus did and said; listen to this. Read the verse.

What did John want people to believe about Jesus? He is the what? Jesus is the Christ.

The word Christ means God chose Jesus to be the Savior who would save sinners. Remember, the people were waiting for the Savior God promised, and John was telling them that Jesus was the one they were waiting for.

Who did John say Jesus is, the Son of who? The Son of God.

This does not mean that Jesus is God's son like boys are sons to their dads. It means Jesus is God in human form—he was born as a baby and grew into a man—but he is also God!

What did John want people to do with this news, believe it or ignore it? Believe it.

Refer to the Flip Chart. John wanted the people to know that only Jesus can give life in heaven with him. He wrote his Gospel so that people would believe Jesus is the Christ, whom God chose, and the Son of God, who would save them from their sins.

K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 121 Flip Chart. We learned that throughout the Old Testament, God told his people about the Savior that would come to save sinners. Then the New Testament tells the exciting news that Jesus Christ, the Savior, has come!

Refer to Lesson 122 Flip Chart. We know that we can trust the New Testament because the Holy Spirit helped the writers know what to write and because the disciples were eyewitnesses of the things Jesus did.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Today we are going to look at the first four books of the New Testament called the Gospels. The word gospel means "good news." These Gospels tell the good news of Jesus.

You might think since they all talk about Jesus, they must all be the same. But each writer wrote about Jesus in a special way and told about different things he did.

Have copies of At the Fair Instructions and cue cards ready for volunteers to read.

To help us understand this, I have four friends here who will tell us about their day at the fair. We'll see how all four of them did the same things but tell about them differently. Follow the At the Fair Instructions.

Each person said something a little different, didn't they? They each told what was most important to them. That's what we expect when different people tell about the same events. It won't be exactly the same.

That's how it is with the four Gospels. Four different men wrote these books, and they each told what they thought was important about Jesus' life. These differences show that the Gospels are true. They don't disagree with each other, but they focus on different things Jesus said and did.

Matthew

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Let's look in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector until he became a disciple and followed Jesus. Matthew knew that the Jewish people were waiting for their Savior and King to come. So he started his Gospel with a genealogy. That's a list that tells who is in your family line, like parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on.

Matthew 1:1

Listen as I read Matthew 1:1. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

Who is this genealogy about? Jesus.

Matthew wanted to show the people something important about Jesus' family.

What two men were part of Jesus' family line? David and Abraham.

In the Old Testament, God promised Abraham and King David that the Savior and King who would reign forever would come from their families.

The Jewish people knew about these promises, so Matthew wanted to show them that Jesus is the one God promised by using a special name for him.

Matthew 9:27

Listen to Matthew 9:27 for the special name. This verse tells about two blind men who cried out to Jesus to heal their eyes. Read the verse.

What did these blind men call Jesus? Son of David.

Remember, the Jews knew about God's promise to King David. So when they heard someone had been called "Son of David," they knew he must be the Savior and King God promised.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Matthew wrote about many times when people called Jesus the Son of David. He wanted to make sure the people understood that Jesus is the King they were waiting for.

Mark

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now let's look at the Gospel of Mark. Mark was not one of the 12 disciples, but he was a friend of Peter—one of Jesus' close friends. Mark wrote this Gospel to show something else about Jesus.

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Why did Jesus come to earth? What is the first reason given here? To serve.

God the Son, the King of kings, came to earth to serve others—not to be served himself! Usually a king wants others to serve him and do things to make him happy. But not King Jesus—he came to serve us!

What else did Jesus come to do? To give his life as a what? As a ransom for many.

A ransom is something you pay in order to free a slave. We are all born as slaves to sin, so we want to do wrong things. There is only one way we can be freed from sin: if a perfect person, who has never sinned, pays the ransom for us, then we can be free. Only Jesus is perfect, and he has already paid the ransom by dying on the cross for sinners—that's us! Jesus gave up his very own life to free us from our sins.

Refer to the Flip Chart. In his Gospel, Mark wanted to make sure people understood that Jesus is a loving servant who suffered and died so that everyone who believes in him could be saved and freed from sin.

Luke

Refer to the Flip Chart. Let's look at the Gospel of Luke. Luke was not a Jew; he was a Gentile. Luke was also a doctor and a friend of the Apostle Paul.

Luke 19:10

Let's find out what Luke tells us about Jesus in Luke 19:10. Read the verse.

What is Jesus called in this verse? The Son of Man.

Luke often called Jesus the Son of Man. It means that, even though Jesus is fully God, he was born as a baby and grew up to be a man.

And why did Jesus come? To seek and to save the lost.
What does it mean to seek? Allow answers.

Jesus came to seek, or search for, those who are lost so he could save them.

Who do you think are the lost? Allow answers.

The lost are sinners—people like you and me! Jesus wants to save us from the punishment of sin. He already paid the ransom, but the Bible says that we must repent of our sins and put our trust in Jesus. To repent means to turn away from sin. When we are truly sorry for our sins and trust in Jesus, he will help us stay away from sin.

Why should we want to stop sinning? Allow discussion.

If you love God, and you know God hates sin, would you keep on doing the things he hates? That wouldn't be very loving, would it? When people repent of their sins, it's because they love God, and they want to please him by being obedient.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Luke tells us that Jesus is the Son of Man—he was fully man AND fully God. He came to seek and to save those who are lost in sin. Jesus came to call sinners to repent by turning away from their sins and turning to him in faith.

John

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now let's look at the Gospel of John! John was a Jewish fisherman when Jesus called him to be a disciple. John became a close friend of Jesus.

John 20:30–31

John tells us why he wrote about the things Jesus did and said; listen to this. Read the verses.

There were many other things Jesus did, but John wrote about certain things so we would know something very important about Jesus.

What did John want us to believe about Jesus? He is the what? Jesus is the Christ.

The word Christ means God chose Jesus to be the Savior who would save sinners. Remember, the people were waiting for the Savior God promised, and John was telling them that Jesus was the Savior they were waiting for.

Who did John say Jesus is? The Son of God.

This does not mean that Jesus is God's son like boys are sons to their dads. It means Jesus is God in human form—he was born as a baby and grew into a man—but he is also God!

What did John want people to do with this news? Believe it.
What would sinners have by believing in Jesus Christ? Life in his name.

John wanted the people to know that only Jesus can give everlasting life in heaven with him.

Refer to the Flip Chart. John wrote his Gospel so that people would believe Jesus is the Christ, whom God chose, and the Son of God, who would save them from their sins.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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