


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 1

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 1: Who Can Be God's Child?

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Is Born of God <i>Luke 1</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• A permanent marker• Six sheets of 8 1/2-by-11 inch copy paper
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“But to all who believed him and received him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” <i>John 1:12-13 (NLT)</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I can be a child of God!</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

When I ask that question at Crossroads this year, this is how we're going to respond:

Note: Leaders will need to help the children with the motions the first couple of weeks of club. The question *"Who is Jesus?"* can be asked at any time, and the response required from the students can be used as a helpful tool to direct the children's attention back to Jesus as they commit the truths about Jesus to memory.

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.

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- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

At Crossroads this year, we are exploring who Jesus is and what he is done. I think we'll find that the more we discover about Jesus, the more we'll discover about who God created us to be and what he says about us!

This is the first truth about Jesus that we're going to explore at Crossroads this year: Jesus is the Son of God. He came from heaven to earth.

Invite the children to perform the motions:

- Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- Jesus came from heaven to earth.
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.

Jesus is the Son of God. In fact, Jesus IS God! He has no beginning and no end, yet he became a human being at one point in time because that was the plan and desire of God. Imagine...Jesus, the Son of God himself, has walked on the same earth that you're standing on right now! (Invite the children to stomp their feet.) **He breathed in the same air that you're breathing.** (Invite the children to take a deep breath in and a deep breath out.) **He had hands** (invite the children to wave their hands) **and he had feet** (invite the children to shake one foot and then another.)

Jesus came from heaven to earth so that he could live among the same people that he helped to create! What do you think Jesus had to give up in order to leave heaven and live on the earth as a human being?

Take student responses.

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Jesus left his face-to-face connection with his Father in the throne room of heaven so that human beings like you and me could see who the invisible God is actually like. In his human body, Jesus reveals to us the whole truth about who God is, because he is the only one who has seen God. Because Jesus became a human being, he also shows us the whole truth about human beings from God's perspective!

Divide students into six groups, either based on rows or sections of the audience. Assign each group one of the following cue words: GOD THE FATHER, JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH, ANGEL and the HOLY SPIRIT. Instruct them to stand up when they hear their cue word. They should stay standing until they hear their cue word again, at which point they should sit down. (You can make this extra challenging for students by adding dramatic pauses every once in a while to make students anticipate what name you are going to say.) You can make this a competition by eliminating students who stand or sit at the wrong time, or very late.

Note: It may be helpful to write each cue word on a sheet of paper and ask the small group leaders to hold up the cue cards at the appropriate time to indicate when the children should stand.

In today's story, we are going to hear about God the Father, the Holy Spirit (or Spirit of God), and Jesus, the Son of God. God is one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a great mystery that can be hard to understand, but in today's story, we're going to focus on how God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) work together to make it possible for Jesus, the Son of God to come into this world as a human being.

GOD THE FATHER sent the ANGEL Gabriel to a town called Nazareth to a woman named MARY, who was engaged to be married to a man named JOSEPH. It's important to know that JOSEPH'S family received a promise from God many, many, many years before this that a king who would reign forever would come from their family line, but they didn't know how or when.

When the ANGEL came to MARY, he said, "Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with you!" MARY was greatly confused by his greeting, and wondered why the ANGEL had appeared to her to tell her such things. Then the ANGEL said to her, "Do not be afraid, God is honoring you! You will give birth to a son, and you will name him JESUS. He will be great, and he will be called the Son of the God Most High. GOD THE FATHER will give him the throne and he will reign forever and ever!"

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Then MARY said to the ANGEL, “How will this happen, for I am not married?” The ANGEL replied, “This will not happen by your own doing. Instead, the power of the HOLY SPIRIT will come over you and make this happen. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy, and he will be the son of GOD THE FATHER. Nothing is impossible for God!”

When JOSEPH found out that MARY was pregnant, he decided to break his engagement with her quietly because he was a good man and did not want to embarrass MARY. As JOSEPH considered this, an ANGEL of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

“JOSEPH, son of David,” the ANGEL said, “do not be afraid to take MARY as your wife. For the child within her was given to her by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT. And she will have a son, and you are to name him JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins.”

When JOSEPH woke up, he did as the ANGEL of the Lord commanded and took MARY as his wife. This happened so that the promise God made to JOSEPH'S family would be fulfilled: the savior and king would come from JOSEPH'S family line, the line of David.

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census, so JOSEPH had to go to the city called Bethlehem. He took with him MARY, to whom he was engaged, who was ready to bring the child into the world. And while MARY and JOSEPH were in Bethlehem, the time came for MARY'S baby to be born, just like the ANGEL had said. MARY gave birth to her firstborn son, Jesus. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. God had come to be with his people in the form of a human baby named JESUS!

Discuss the following questions:

- Looking at the story we just explored, who planned for Jesus to be born as a human being? Who set the plan in motion? (God the Father.)
- This Bible story tells us that it was humanly impossible for Mary to have a child. By whose power was Jesus's birth made possible? (The Holy Spirit. The power of God made it possible!)
- What surprised you from the story today? (Answers may vary.)

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It was God the Father's plan that his Son Jesus would become a human being. In fact, it was exactly what God the Father wanted. This is good news! God wanted us to be his children too, and he planned for us to become his children by believing that his son, Jesus, became a human being! If Jesus, the Son of God, became a human being, being human does not disqualify us from becoming God's children. We were God's plan all along, he loves us, he wants to call us his children and he desires a close relationship with us!

Review the Bible verse:

“But to all who believed him and received him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” *John 1:12-13 (NLT)*

Being a child of God is a marvelous thing! We'll talk about what it means to be a child of God in our small groups today.

Give instructions and dismiss the students to their small groups.