

Goals

In the following lessons, our students will evaluate their belief in the Lord Jesus. They will question how much they truly believe in God despite attending church regularly, reading the Bible, and praying. Believing and knowing the Lord Jesus involves much more than a mental assent to the truth. It means turning from sin, living a life of obedience and love, keeping God's word, walking in His likeness and loving our brothers.

Our students will also learn that to know the Lord Jesus, we need to have experiences of the Lord in our everyday lives. Through recognizing the divine attributes of our Lord Jesus, they will discover that regardless of what they face in life, they need to trust in Him, for He is the answer to all of life's problems.

Teacher Devotional

The Christian life basically comes down to an ongoing series of choices. Godly living may seem impossible until we approach life one choice at a time. Then godly living becomes abundantly possible.

As someone once said, "The key to victorious Christian living comes down to this—whatever you're doing that's right, keep doing it; whatever you're doing that's wrong, knock it off."

The Greatest Command

So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself."

(Luke 10:27)

Lesson 10

The Gospel of John
**Jesus Christ,
the Son of God**Listed Scriptures

Jn 1:1-14; 1:29-51; 4:1-26; 10:22-39; 11; 17; Jn 11:17-44; Lk 7:11-23

Lesson Aim

To enable students to recognize that Jesus Christ is God manifest in human form

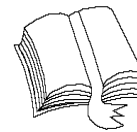
Memory Verse

"who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Heb 1:3)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

John 1-7

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



The Gospel of John is the fourth gospel book. The first three books are known as "the harmony of the Gospels," for their materials about the life and teachings of the Lord Jesus are similar, and the arrangement of the contents are almost identical. However, the gospel of John differs greatly from the other three in content and approach. John selects key events and takes the time to explain them. He uses simple vocabulary but chooses special words with deep meaning such as word, truth, light, darkness, life and love. John's main focus is on the true identity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Author:

While the gospel does not specifically designate its author, many factors support the long-held belief that he was John the apostle, the brother of James. John lived in Bethsaida of Galilee but also had another house in Jerusalem (Jn 19:27). His father was Zebedee and mother was Salome. John and his brother James were fishermen (Mt 4:21, 22). They were called by the Lord to follow Him. They were later

appointed as apostles (Mt 10:2), and among the twelve disciples, they were two out of the three disciples closest to the Lord (Mt 17:1). John is often believed to be the beloved disciple of the Lord Jesus (Jn 13:23-28). He was the youngest of the twelve apostles and the only apostle who followed the Lord to the cross (Jn 19:26). At the crucifixion, Lord Jesus commended His mother to John's care. After the Lord's ascension, John became a pillar of the church and was made an elder (Gal 2:9; 2 Jn 1). He died at the age of ninety-eight, making him the apostle who lived to the most advanced age.

Time of writing:

The Gospel of John was written between AD 85-90 from Ephesus after the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70) and before John's exile to the island of Patmos. According to some historical recordings, John stayed in Ephesus after the death of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. There, John completed his gospel and his other epistles till the last years of the Roman emperor Domitian, who exiled him to Patmos Island. There, he wrote the Book of Revelation.

Purpose of writing:

John explains his purpose of writing very clearly in Jn 20:31, "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." The important purpose of this book is to let the Gentiles, who had no correct view of the knowledge of God, learn of the truth about Christ. John also wrote to Christians to strengthen their faith. The book introduces God as the Word (Jn 1:1). And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among men. The Lord Jesus, the incarnate word, came full of grace and truth. Whoever believes in Him will gain eternal life (Jn 1:14, 18; 20:31).

W A R M U P



If you had to introduce yourself, what facts about you would allow others to know you better?



Part 1

Son of God

History is crowded with men who claimed to be gods, or who were given such adulation after they died. Men such as King Tutankhamen, Siddhartha Gautama, Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Vladimir Lenin are some examples. However, only the Lord Jesus backed up His claim. In this gospel, John presents evidence and facts to convince the people that Jesus Christ is no ordinary man. He is God Himself. The other gospels begin with the birth of the Lord Jesus or with an account of His human ancestry. John, on the other hand, tells us immediately that the child born then is the eternal God (Jn 1:14). His origin was not at His physical conception, but, as Micah said, His "origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Mic 5:2). Prophets of old had predicted long ago the coming of the Son of God. The prophet Isaiah foretold, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." (Is 9:6-7; Is 16:5). Jeremiah tells how the Lord will raise up for David a righteous Branch (Jer 23:5). And in Deuteronomy 18:18, God appeared to Moses saying, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him."

Now, John presents without a doubt that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the one who had been promised long ago. In the gospel, the Lord Jesus is often referred to as "The Son" or "His own Son" or "Son," all of which is to be understood as "the Son of God" (Lk 10:22; Jn 5:19; Lk 1:35b; Jn 20:31).

But does this mean that He was God's son? During the baptism and transfiguration of the Lord Jesus, a voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:16-17; Mt 17:5). The word "begotten" does not imply, in any way, the sense of being born or generation as in the case of man. It means unique, only one of its kind. It does not denote the beginning of the Son. The "Son of God" is actually a term to describe how God Himself came assuming a human body and human nature. Although God came in the form of the man Jesus, God continued to be God at the same time. Although He was living in the world, He was also in heaven. From the prophecy of Isaiah, the Son is the everlasting Father, (Is 6:9) meaning that the Lord Jesus is the Father Himself. Many times throughout His ministry the Lord would reveal His true identity. In John 10:30 the Lord states, "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10:30). And when asked if He was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed, Lord Jesus replied, "I Am" (Mk 14:61,62). When Phillip asked

the Lord to show him the Father, the Lord told him that He was the Father. "Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me, Phillip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father....." (Jn 14:8ff). We see from here that Jesus Christ is in fact the Heavenly Father, the Creator of the universe. God did not give up His deity to become human, but He set aside the right to His glory and power. He came as a Son who was obedient to the Father's will, to accomplish the divine plan devised for man's salvation. By coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, God destroyed sin in the flesh. In all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest, to be the propitiation for the sins of the people.



Part 2

The Lord Jesus is God

A. Jesus Christ is Without Sin

a. The Lord Jesus was born through the Holy Spirit

The birth of the Lord Jesus is one of the greatest miracles that ever occurred. Although He came as a human, His birth sets Him apart from all other human beings. Ordinarily, individuals are conceived through the union of a man and woman. Jesus Christ, however, was conceived through the Holy Spirit. He was born of God and is called the Son of God. Through His miraculous birth, the Lord was free from the sinful nature passed on to all other men from Adam. Jesus Christ is therefore without sin or blemish. He is the only sinless person; He is qualified to be the Lamb of God and to die for the sins of mankind (1 Jn 3:5).

b. Jesus Christ did not sin

As we live in this world, we are bombarded with temptations and worldly pressures that cause us to sin each day. The Lord Jesus too met with all kinds of temptations, yet He was able to overcome them all. He did not sin on account of these. Even when He was at His physical low after fasting for forty days, the Lord did not succumb to the wiles of Satan. At times, when the multitude pressured Him to become king, He was able to resist the temptation to bring glory upon Himself (Jn 6:15). When the Lord was standing trial before His accusers, they could not make a case against Him. Even when Pilate tried the Lord three times, he could not find any grounds for charging Jesus Christ with

the death penalty (Lk 23:4, 14, 22). Unlike all men, Jesus Christ is the only human who was able to resist and overcome sin throughout His entire life (1 Pet 2:21-23).

B. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Overcome Death

It is a sad and inevitable truth that death is the end of every life. Because of sin, death calls upon each person (Heb 9:27; Rom 6:23). Like all human beings, Jesus Christ too lived and died. But what makes Jesus Christ different is that He was able to resurrect from the dead. This proves that He was not only a man, He was also God, the Lord of Life. Death could not confine the Lord, and He rose from the dead three days after His burial. Not only did the Lord overcome His own death, but He was also able to bring those who had died to life (Jn 11:17-44; Lk 7:11-17; 8:41-42, 49-56). In John 11:25, the Lord proclaimed that He is "the resurrection and the life." He gives to His believers a beautiful promise that, "because I live, you will live also," and "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). In the future, the Lord will save our souls from the second death. He will cause our physical bodies to rise from the dead and transform them into spiritual bodies that will enter the heavenly kingdom (Jn 6:54; 11:26; Rom 8:11; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

C. Jesus Christ is All-Knowing

During His ministry, the Lord often surprised the people around Him with His ability to know everything.

a. Jesus Christ knows a man's past

While talking with the Samaritan woman by the well, the Lord revealed her past to her (Jn 4:16-19). In John 1:45-49, Jesus Christ knew Nathanael even before they met. He knew Nathanael to be "a true Israelite, in whom there is no guile." He also unveiled His omniscience to Nathanael by telling him of his exact location before Phillip called him.

b. Jesus Christ knows a man's heart

Jesus Christ is the omniscient God who knows the deepest thoughts and intentions of the heart. On occasions when the Pharisees or scribes tried to test the Lord, the Lord knew their thoughts and the hypocrisy of their hearts (Mt 9:4; 22:18; Mk 12:15; Lk 11:14-17ff). After the Lord forgave the sins of the paralytic in Capernaum, He knew that the scribes were inwardly questioning His authority to forgive sins (Mk 2:5-8).

c. Jesus Christ knows a man's future

Man has no way of knowing his future or even what will happen in the next second. Only God can see and is in control of future events: The Lord Jesus predicted His death and resurrection three times (Mt 16:21; Mt 17:22; Mt 20:17); He predicted how the disciples would flee and depart from Him (Mt 26:31, 56); He predicted how Peter would deny Him three times and what would eventually happen to Peter (Mt 26:31-35, 74, 75; Jn 21:18-19); the Lord foretold the destruction of Jerusalem (Mt 24:1-2); He predicted how Peter and John would find the man who would bring them to the room that was to be used for the Passover (Lk 22:7-13); He predicted how the two disciples would find a donkey in the next village (Mt 21:1-7). From this, we see that Jesus Christ was no ordinary man. He is God Himself, who is all-present, all-powerful and all-knowing. Since the Lord Jesus is God, our ways cannot be hidden from Him (Ps 139:3; Prov 15:3). God knows our words, our deeds, our thoughts and our innermost hearts (1 Chron 28:9; 1 Jn 3:20).

D. Jesus Christ Performed Many Signs and Miracles

Being God Himself, Jesus Christ manifested God's nature in its fullness through His speech and deeds. In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Col 2:9). Throughout His ministry, the Lord demonstrated divine power and authority. He healed those with all kinds of diseases and pains (Mt 3:23-24). He performed many signs and miracles that caused the people to wonder in amazement, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel" (Mt 9:33). The Lord did not use traditional human methods of healing. He used His almighty power. Sometimes sicknesses were healed through a touch, leading by the hands, or laying on of hands (Mk 1:41; 5:41; 8:22-25; 9:27). Other times, He healed the sick with a single word or command (Mk 2:11-12; 3:5; 10:52; Lk 4:39; 5:13; Jn 4:50-51; 5:8-9). The Lord performed these miracles to let the people to know who He truly was and to bring them to believe in Him (Rom 15:18; 10:13; Mk 16:16; Jn 3:1-2; Jn 5:1-38).

E. Jesus Christ Taught With Authority

To teach in a school, college, or university usually requires specialized teacher training and a teacher's license. Similarly, in the Lord Jesus' day, rabbis and scribes had to receive schooling in the laws before they could teach. The Lord, however, did not receive any such training. He did not carry any human certification, degree or license. Yet, when He taught, the Lord spoke with such authority and revealed truths that the people questioned where He got His wisdom (Mt 13:53-54; Mt

21:23; Mt 22:15-22, 23-33, 34-46). Christ was able to teach effectively, to correct erroneous attitudes, thoughts and conduct; and to give exactly what a person needed most. The people could perceive that He taught as one who had authority and not as their scribes (Mt 7:28-29; Lk 4:31-32). Was He not the carpenter's son? Where did the Lord obtain this authority? How could He teach with such power? The truth is that the Lord Jesus is not just a man, He is God, and in Him is the perfect embodiment of the truth.

F. Jesus Christ Has Power and Authority Over Satan

Luke 4:18-19 records the Lord's mission in coming to the world. He came to "proclaim release to the captives, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed." People are not only made captives by sickness, anxieties and problems, but they are also made captives of Satan and sin. Such lives are wretched and full of darkness. But Jesus Christ came to break the bonds of Satan, "to open the eyes of the people, so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God..." (Ac 26:18). In the Gospels, there are many occasions where the Lord set free those who were under the bondage of Satan. He was able to cast out demons from the two men in the country of the Gadarenes (Mt 8:28-34); He healed the Canaanite's daughter who was possessed (Mt 15:21-28); He healed the blind and dumb demoniac (Mt 12:22). However, Christ came not only to cast out demons then, but He came to break the bonds of sin and Satan forever. Through the shedding of His blood, the Lord has freed us from this terrible bondage. No one but Christ can set us free, as He has complete and absolute power over the physical and spiritual realms. All things are subject to the authority of God. It is written in Colossians 1:16, "In Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him."

G. Jesus Christ is Lord of Nature

How many of us have planned a trip only to have to cancel or postpone it due to bad weather? How many of us have gone fishing only to return home without a single catch? Indeed, the weather and the forces of nature are beyond human control. However, in the Gospels there are a total of nine miracles that demonstrate how Jesus Christ has total control over the forces of nature:

Water turned to wine in Cana (Jn 2:1-11); catch of fish near Capernaum (Lk 5:1-11); another catch of fish (Jn 21:6); tempest stilled (Mt 8:23-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk

8:22-25); the five thousand people fed with five loaves of bread and two fish (Mt 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44; Lk 9:10-17; Jn 6:1-14); the Lord Jesus walked on the sea (Mt 14:22-36; Mk 6:45-52; Jn 6:15-21); the four thousand people fed (Mt 15:32-39; Mk 8:1-10); money for the temple tax taken from the mouth of a fish (Mt 17:24-27); a fig tree cursed (Mt 21:18-22; Mk 11:12-14, 20-25).

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



- 1 What is the definition of "Son of God"?
- 2 What is His relationship with God?
- 3 What is the difference between us as "sons of God" and Jesus Christ as the "Son of God"?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

God and His Attributes



Psalms 105:1-5 says, "O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing praises to Him, tell of all His wonderful works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His presence continually! Remember the wonderful works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgements He uttered, O offspring of Abraham His servant, sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!"

Read the following testimonies and then relate a personal testimony or incident that allowed you to experience God and His attributes. Start to keep a journal, if you haven't already done so, of all your personal encounters with God and His doings. With each entry, you will begin to realize how great and wonderful our God is, and how He takes care of every aspect of our lives.

God has control over nature

A brother once owned a fish farm. One day, he woke up to find that all his fish had died and were floating on top of the water. When his neighbors saw this, they laughed at him, saying, "What is the use of believing in God?" Apparently, only his fish died whereas nothing had happened to their fish. The brother was sad-

dened to see this, and wondered why God had allowed this to happen. He gathered up all the dead fish and sold them that day at the market for a cheap price. Not long later, a huge tidal wave swept over the fish farm. The wave was so huge that it carried all the fish in the farm out to sea. His neighbors found that they had lost all their fish because they had been swept out to sea. The brother immediately realized God's good will for causing his fish to die. Although he had to sell his fish, he did not end up with nothing like his neighbors.

God knows our thoughts and intentions

An elderly brother and his wife had been believers in another church that worshiped on Sundays. While grocery shopping one day, a sister from the True Jesus Church preached to him and invited him to attend an evangelical service. During the seven days of spiritual convocation, the brother experienced many wonderful visions and blessings from the Lord. He decided to get baptized, and during the Holy Communion, he saw a vision. He saw the Lord Jesus appear to him in a white garment, holding a big sheet of yellow paper with the Ten Commandments written on it. When the Lord came before him, the Lord asked if he could recite the Ten Commandments. Usually the brother could recite them easily but this time he could not remember the 4th Commandment. Then a miracle happened at that instant. The 4th Commandment blinked three times, "Remember to keep the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." God is a God who knows and searches the heart. Deep in his heart, the brother was intending to go back the day after the Sabbath to his old church where he attended Sunday worship. The Lord saw this and warned the brother in the vision of the importance of obeying completely the teachings of the Bible.

God has the power to heal sickness

Since the birth of her youngest daughter, a sister - who at the time had not yet come to know the Lord - suffered constant bleeding. This sickness continued for twelve years. Despite the fact that her husband was a well-renowned physician, had contacts with the best physicians and the best hospitals, he could not find a cure for her. One day, the sister's sister persuaded her to go to the True Jesus Church. When she went, she received the Holy Spirit. During the prayer, she felt a force like a bolt of lightning come upon her and she began to vibrate strongly. She started to worry that the vibrations would cause her to bleed even more. However, she later discovered that she was healed of her bleeding at precisely the moment she received the Holy Spirit.

God can cast out demons

In one village, there lived a renowned sorcerer who had such power that, if he

willed, he could curse a person to death. As such, the entire village feared him and came to him to seek his healing power through witchcraft. On one occasion however, he passed by the TJC and stopped to look. As he stood there, he saw a white figure descending from heaven into the church. The next time he passed by, he saw in another vision the radiant man laying hands on the believers who were praying. There was light everywhere except the spot on which he stood. Not long later, he fell ill. He contracted a disease similar to arthritis. His whole body stiffened and it was difficult for him to move or bend his body. Almost every night, three devils came to disturb him, the very same demons whom he worshiped and depended on to practice witchcraft. They commanded him not to believe in Christianity. They would then beat him up, strangle him or take his blanket away so he could not sleep peacefully. He stayed in bed for more than two months. After this, members from the True Jesus Church visited him and told him of the truth. One night when the three devils came again, he shouted, "Hallelujah!" as he had been taught. The three devils disappeared. From this incident, he understood God's power better. Later, he was baptized. He had to be carried on a wooden stretcher, and it proved to be a difficult task baptizing a man who could not bend his body. After the baptism, he was miraculously cured of his sickness.

Question to think about:

Write about an incident or event in your life that attests to the mighty power of our Lord.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



1. *What aspect of God's divine nature have we experienced in our lives?*
2. *How much have we allowed the Creator of the heavens and earth to dwell within our hearts and be in control of our lives?*
3. *How much have we appreciated the opportunity of knowing God and His word?*

Lesson 1 1

The Gospel of John

Knowing and Believing in the Lord Jesus

Listed Scriptures

Rom 1:24-28, 10:14-17; Eph 1:15-23; 2 Thess 2:9-12; Heb 4:2; 1 Jn 2:1-6;
1 Jn 4:7-12

Lesson Aim

To enable students to learn about the importance of "knowing" the Lord as our personal Savior

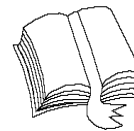
Memory Verse

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.." (1 Jn 5:20)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

John 8-14

BIBLE BACKGROUND



Please refer to the Bible Background section in Lesson 10 for additional information on the Gospel of John (Lessons 10, 11 and 12 are Bible studies based on the Gospel of John).