LESSON 1

Understanding Jesus: The Prophecies of the Birth and Death of Jesus Christ

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OBJECTIVES

- 1. Jesus is the Messiah because He fulfills all the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah—His birth and His death.
- 2. Jesus is the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Son of God. He came to save us from our sin. He is our Savior.
- 3. To learn the accuracy of Biblical prophecies and how God always fulfills His promises.
- 4. To continue to experience God through prayer and Bible reading.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

(John 14:6)

PRAYER

- 1. Thank God for safely guiding us through the past week so that we can come to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.
- 2. Praise God for sending His son Jesus Christ to give us salvation.
- 3. Ask God to open our hearts and minds as we study the fulfilled prophecies of Jesus Christ.



Overview

- 1. The genealogy of Jesus
- 2. "Messiah" means "Anointed One." "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of "Messiah."
- 3. Prophecies and fulfillments about Jesus' birth and death
- 4. Understanding Jesus
 - Jesus is the Mighty God and Everlasting Father.
 - Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Jesus came to save us from sin. He is our Savior.
- **5. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—Jesus is the one true God.
- **6. Life Application**—Who is Jesus Christ to me? Commit to prayer and Bible reading.
- 7. Activity—Group Crossword Trails



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Virgin Shall Conceive

Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised to give His people a sign: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is 7:14).

The Hebrew word *almah* is translated as "virgin." It can mean either a virgin or young woman. It refers to a young woman who has never had sexual relations with a man. Accordingly, the translators of the Septuagint (the earliest Greek translations of the Old Testament) chose the Greek word *parthenos* as their rendering of *almah*. *Parthenos* can only mean "virgin."

Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy, for He was Immanuel—"God with us"—in the fullest sense. Jesus' miraculous birth was a sign that God had come in the flesh to dwell with humanity.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students may have difficulty understanding the relevance of genealogies at this age. In fact, reading the names in a line of descendants may bore them. What is important to emphasize is that the birth of Jesus has been prophesied since Old Testament times. It was God's plan from the very beginning to send His son to die for our sins on the cross. As a descendant of David (and Abraham and Adam), Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the true Messiah.

Rather than reading through the names of the various descendants, point out that these were people from different backgrounds. Some were famous, such as David, while others were just ordinary people. However, God carried out His wonderful plan of salvation through every one of those people. Remind your students that although they may not seem significant, God can also work through them. They should complete the tasks given to them, knowing that they are part of God's plans. Emphasize also that God keeps His promises, just as He kept the promise of a Messiah. They can trust God to keep His promises.



Opener 5 Minutes

Ask the students if they ever wanted, expected, or hoped for something with all their hearts. Did they have to wait long before receiving it, or did they receive it immediately? How did they feel when they received it? Were they happy, thankful, or satisfied? If they did not receive it, how did they feel? Sad or disappointed? Tell the students that during New Testament times, the Jews were waiting for what God had promised them in the Scriptures: a Messiah! They had been waiting a long time and had hoped for a leader who would free them from their Roman rulers. Just as He promised, God did send a Messiah, but He wasn't what many were expecting. He was even better!



Vocabulary

prophecy: a prediction of something to come

Messiah: "Anointed One"; the great Deliverer of Israel

Scripture: during New Testament times, this referred to the Old Testament; now it refers to both the OT

and NT



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Make copies of the two Bible Discovery worksheets before class. Give Worksheet #1 to the students now. The students will be referencing it and filling it out during the lesson. Keep one copy of each for yourself to reference during the lesson as well.

Read Matthew 1:1-17, the genealogy of Jesus Christ, to the students.

Students, how many of the names do you recognize? This passage names thirty-eight generations of Jesus' ancestors. It is hard for us to know the name of our great-greatgrandfather, let alone the name of someone from thirty-eight generations earlier. The genealogy shows that Jesus came from a long line of royal families and kings. Jesus was of royal descent.

Emphasize verse 6, "Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon," and verse 17, "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations." Jesus is a descendant of David. Our Lord Jesus Christ was not only of the Jews but of all humanity: His genealogy traced to Abraham, Adam, and God. Ask the students to refer to Luke 3:23-38. Pay special attention to verse 38, which states that Jesus is "the son of Adam, the son of God."

Not only is Jesus the Son of God, Jesus is also the Messiah!

Boys and girls, let's look at the top of **Worksheet #1**. [The answers for the first section are underlined in the following sentences.]

The word "Messiah" means "Anointed One." The name "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of "Messiah," so "Jesus Christ" means "Jesus the Messiah," or "Jesus the anointed." In the Old Testament, the word "Messiah" is often associated with the anointing of a prophet, priest, or king. Do you remember the anointing of David by the prophet Samuel? In the Old Testament, priests, prophets, and kings were to be anointed, consecrated, and sanctified as they served God.

FOR TEACHERS

After telling the students the meanings, have them fill in the blanks on the worksheet.

The amazing thing is that from about 400 to 1500 years before Jesus, Hebrew prophets foretold about Jesus, the coming Messiah. Jesus fulfilled their prophecies, which proved to us that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Savior.

Let's learn about some major Old Testament prophecies! Major Old Testament passages indicated that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (Is 7:14) in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2) and that He would be a descendant of the house of David (2 Sam 7:12). The Messiah would also suffer, be rejected by His own people (Ps 69:8), betrayed by a friend (Ps 41:9), and crucified between two criminals (Is 53:12). There are many more passages, which we will discover in this lesson.

FOR TEACHERS

Is 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

2 Sam 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom."

Ps 69:8 "I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children."

Ps 41:9 "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."

Is 53:12 "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Now, let's continue with **Worksheet #1** and look at the prophecies in the Old Testament passages and how they were all fulfilled in the New Testament.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to read the passages as you go through them one by one. They should be able to tell you the missing words and write them down. The verses are all in NKJV. You can choose to make a copy of the worksheet for yourself to fill in and use as an answer key.

Answers:

Page 1, top: Anointed One, Messiah Page 1, bottom: Judea, Child, David, virgin Page 2: break, Cursed, nothing, right, left, thirty

* * * *

FOR TEACHERS

Distribute Worksheet #2 to the students now and keep one copy for yourself. You will be reading the passages on the worksheet while the students underline specific words in the passages. The instructions for each specific teaching are listed below.

Understanding Jesus!

Now that we have just learned about the prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament, what does this all mean to us? We really need to ask ourselves this question: **Who is Jesus Christ to me?** Let's read John 14:6. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" We can say that Jesus is the only way for us to know God!

Write the following words on the board: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. [Ask the students to write down "Mighty" and "Everlasting" in the box at the top of the worksheet.] How does it feel when people label you as someone who is wonderful, mighty, everlasting, a prince of peace and a counselor? [Let students respond.] That's right! These are very good attributes! And our Lord Jesus has all of these attributes. [Teachers: Start reading from the worksheet now.]

Teaching #1: Jesus is the <u>Mighty</u> God and <u>Everlasting</u> Father!

[After reading each passage, ask the students to underline all the special words that refer to Jesus.]

- Isaiah 9:6 "Mighty God"; "Everlasting Father"
- Isaiah 7:14 "Immanuel"
- Matthew 1:23 "Immanuel"; "God with us."

[After the students finish underlining the special words, ask them to fill in the blanks in the "Teaching" section.]

Teaching #2: Jesus is the Son of God

[Ask the students to write "Son" in the box. Underline the word "Son" in each verse.]

- John 3:16 "His only begotten Son"
- Matthew 3:17 "This is My beloved Son"
- Matthew 26:63-64 "'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said.'"

[Ask the students to fill in the blank in the "Teaching" section.]

Teaching #3: Jesus came to save us from our sin. He is our <u>Savior</u>!

[Ask students to write "Savior" in the box. Underline the words "save" and "take away."]

- Matthew 1:21 "He will save His people from their sins"
- John 1:29 "who takes away the sin of the world"
- 1 John 3:5 "to take away our sins"

[Ask the students to fill in the blank in the "Teaching" section.]



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Jesus is the one true God.

Today we studied the following points:

- 1. Jesus is the Messiah because He fulfills all the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah—His birth and His death.
- 2. Jesus is the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Son of God. He came to save us from our sins. He is our Savior.

Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah when He came to save us from sin. The salvation that the Lord Jesus brought to us fully manifests His love. It is through Jesus that we have the hope of everlasting life in His glorious kingdom.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What does the word "Messiah" mean? "Messiah" means "Anointed One."
- 2. What is the Greek equivalent of "Christ"? "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of "Messiah."
- 3. Which famous king is Jesus descended from? Jesus is a descendant of King David.
- **4.** The genealogy traced everyone back to Adam. What does that mean to us in relation to our understanding about Jesus? Adam is the son of God, too. God created Adam first.
- 5. Isaiah 7:14 reads, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name _____." What is His name called? His name is called Immanuel.
- 6. What does "Immanuel" mean? "Immanuel" means "God with us."
- 7. Please finish the verse: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave _____, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "His only begotten Son"
- 8. Please finish the verse. Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will _____." "save His people from their sins"



Life Application

10 Minutes

Who is Jesus Christ to me?

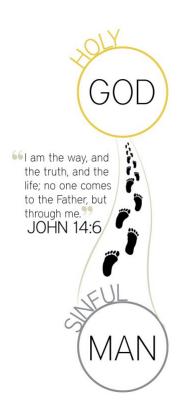
Let's read John 14:6. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" We can say that Jesus is the only way for us to know God!

Have we been able to form a deep and close relationship with God? If not, we need to remind ourselves that we, as humans, are sinful. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). We are created to have fellowship with God. But because of our stubborn self-will, we choose to go our own way and our fellowship with God is broken. What is sin? Sin is the breaking of God's law. If God says, "Do not steal," and you steal, then you have broken His law and sinned. When you sin, you offend God because it is His law that you have broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Is 59:2).

Do you have any sins that you have not repented of this week?

Sample



FOR TEACHERS

Make copies of Life Application Worksheet #1. Ask the students to focus on the circle at the top and label it "God." At the bottom, they should focus on the other circle and label it "Man."

Say: God is holy and man is sinful. [Emphasize the word "holy" next to God and "sinful" next to man.] A great gap separates the two.

Jesus Christ is God's *only* provision for man's sin. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). Through Him, we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. Ask the students to draw a path and footprints to illustrate this verse: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." The final picture should look something like the illustration on the bottom left.

FOR TEACHERS

For the following section, make copies of Life Application Worksheet #2 and distribute it to the students. Read the testimony to the students as they follow along, and then have them answer the Life Application Questions as a class.

Let's read this testimony from a brother's heart. [Teachers: Read testimony to the students as they follow along.]

Life Application Questions

- 1. Why did this brother turn to prayer when he was afraid? He knew that God is his Father and that God will take care of him.
- 2. What did he experience as he prayed to God? He felt the warmth of the Holy Spirit comfort him. The longer he prayed, the more comforted he was. The fear within him was replaced by a feeling of hope. He remembered all that God had done for him in the past.
- 3. What did this brother suggest for us to do when we feel alone, don't know what to do, or forget who we are? Pray to God in the spirit, because God will help us.

It is not enough just to know that God has a solution for us; we must experience Him in our daily lives and in prayers. We can bridge this gap by reaching God through prayers and reading God's word.

Worksheet: Ask the students to fill in the blanks at the bottom of the worksheet and commit to spend time in daily Bible reading and prayer.



Activity

Group Crossword Trails

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To review the content of today's lesson.

Materials

- Sheets of white scratch paper
- Pencils

How to create a crossword trail: Write the first word horizontally at the very top of the paper. Using a letter from the first word, write the second word vertically. Write the third word horizontally using a letter from the second word, and so forth. Alternate between writing horizontally and vertically and always use a letter from the previous word.

Instructions

- 1. Group the students into teams of 2 or 3 and give each team a piece of paper and a pencil.
- 2. When you give the signal, each team will create a crossword trail using as many words as they can from today's lesson. No words can be repeated.
- 3. Tell them not to write too large or they won't be able to fit many words on the page. If they run out of space but still have time, give them another sheet of scratch paper to tape to their first sheet.
- 4. When time is up, ask the groups to explain each word in their crossword trail and how the word relates to today's lesson. The team with the most relevant words wins.
- 5. Conclude with a prayer.

Crossword Trail Sample

1st word: Immanuel 2nd word: Messiah 3rd word: King David 4th word: anointed one 5th word: Bethlehem

Μ I m m a n u e l S KingDavid а n h 0 i n t Bethlehem d 0 n е

Messiah, P	rophet,	Priest, King						
1. The word "Messiah" means "		·"						
2. The name "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of "		·"						
Propheci	sus' Birth							
Old Testament Prophecy	\Box	Fulfillment in the New Testament						
Be born in the town of Bethlehem of Judea (Judah)								
Mic 5:2	Mt 2:1							
"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."	ightharpoonup	"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem."						
A Child to be born								
Is 9:6		Lk 2:11						
"For unto us a is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.	ightharpoonup	"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."						
Be born a Ki	ng of the	line of David						
Is 9:7	<u></u>	Mt 1:1						
"Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom."	ightharpoonup	"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Sor of, the Son of Abraham."						
Do h		lucia						
Is 7:14	oorn of a v	<u>Irgin</u> Lk 1:26-27						
"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."	ightharpoonup	"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary."						

Prophecies of Jesus' Death

Old Testament Prophecy	\Box	Fulfillment in the New Testament						
Be Passover sacrifice with no bone broken								
Num 9:12		Jn 19:32-33						
"They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it."	\Rightarrow	"Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not His legs."						
Be hung upon a tree as a curse for us								
Dt 21:23	Gal 3:13							
"His body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God."	\Box	"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ' is everyone who hangs on a tree')."						
Be accused and afflicted without opening His mouth								
Is 53:7	tea witho	Mt 27:12						
"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."	ightharpoonup	"And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered"						
	rucified w	ith transgressors)						
Is 53:12	Mt 27:38							
"Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."	ightharpoonup	"Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the and another on the"						
Be sold for thirty pieces of silver								
Zech 11:12	Mt 27:3							
"Then I said to them, 'If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.' So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver."	\Box	"Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders."						

Who Is Jesus Christ to Me?

Teaching #1: Jesus is the God and Father!

Instructions: Underline all the special words that refer to Jesus.

- Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be on His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
- Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."
- Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel." (Immanuel means "God with us.")

Teaching: Jesus was declared to	be the	and	\	long		
before He was ever conceived in	n the womb of Mary.	The Everlasting	Father became the	child and son! Therefore Jesus		
truly is,,	, Jesus is Almighty God become a man.					
	Teaching #2: J	lesus is the	of God.			

Instructions: Underline the word "Son" in each verse.

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- Matthew 3:17 "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- Matthew 26:63-64 "But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said.'"

Teaching: Jesus was declared to be the _____ of God over and over again in the New Testament. The Everlasting Father became the Child and Son! Therefore, Jesus truly is God with us. Jesus is God become man.

Teaching #3: Jesus came to save us from our sin. He is our!

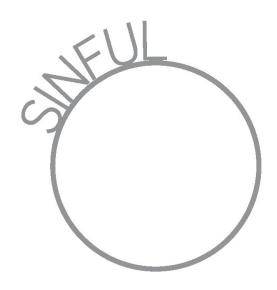
Instructions: Underline the words "save" and "take away."

- Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
- John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!""
- I John 3:5 "And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin."

Teaching: Jesus wants us to receive eternal life. He died on the cross for us so that we can be sinless. The forgiveness of sin can only be freely given through the death of Jesus Christ. Today, we have studied more about who Jesus is. Through the study of the prophecies of Jesus' birth and death, we can now understand that His purpose of coming as a man was to save us from our sin. He is truly our ______!



the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me. JOHN 14:6



Testimony

I recently faced issues that I had never faced and dealt with responsibilities far beyond my abilities. Things had gotten very stressful due to my studies and other school problems. I didn't know what to do. I was so afraid and helpless that I just lay down on the floor of my apartment and moped.

Then I thought, "Maybe I should pray." So I started praying in spirit. I told God that I didn't know what to do anymore. Everything was just too hard. I didn't have strength. I was scared. I wanted to run away.

As I prayed, I felt the warmth of the Holy Spirit comfort me. The longer I prayed, the more comforted I was. The fear in me began to dissipate and was replaced by a feeling of hope. I started remembering all that God had done for me in the past.

Even though the problems and challenges still existed, I knew everything was going to be all right. God is my Father and He will take care of me. My worries faded and all I desired to do was please my Father.

Before I prayed, I was afraid of many things. But as I prayed, my soul was calmed and quieted. I was completely at peace.

Romans 8:15 tells us that the promised Holy Spirit we receive is the Spirit of adoption. This Spirit "bears witness...that we are children of God" (Rom 8:16). Thus, when we pray in spirit, we are certain that we are God's children. We are not orphans. We are not lonely because God is with us. We are not afraid because God will help us.

If we ever feel alone, if we don't know what to do, or if we forget who we are, let us not forget that we can pray. For the spirit we receive is not the spirit of bondage to fear, but God's Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Life Application Questions

- 1. Why did this brother turn to prayer when he was afraid?
- 2. What did he experience as he prayed to God?
- 3. What did this brother suggest for us to do when we feel alone, don't know what to do, or forget who we are?

Commit yourself to spend time in daily Bible reading and prayer.



Amount of time I will spend reading the Bible each day: _____

Amount of time I will spend praying each day: _____



E2 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 1—

Understanding Jesus: The Prophecies of the Birth and Death of Jesus Christ

Homework Assignment

ivame:	·					raren	t signai	are:		Date:
Weekly Bible Reading: Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading. Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.					you co	mplete	What I Learned from the Bible This Week 1.			
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
Read									2	
Pray										
				l	Please	write (nory Verse	ery verse. (John 14:6)
Some	For un Unto u And th And H Wond	to us a us a So ne gove is nam erful, (a Child n is giv ernmer ne will Counse	ent proving the sent pr	n, be upo led ighty (of Pea	on His God,	shoulde		n of a poem.	Title:
write	so tha	it peop	le wou	uld kno	w righ	t away			t would you Christ is to	
		aiah 7 ohn 3:			ah 9:6 thew <i>1</i>		• Matt • John			
					tart yo		but ma	e up	o your	
Yet Yo I offer My Ev Prince	You su	d alone o You, ng Fath ice,	in and v and en er,	woe, idure.	That G Let's re How G When And ev	ount the od has membe od's we we are ren whe	e blessings of freely er His goorking in troublecen every.	sent odne us. hing		

He will always care.