

WHO IS JESUS? ADULT EDITION

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON:

Text: John 1:1–3, 14, 18; Matthew 1:23; 1 Peter 1:19–20; Revelation 13:8; Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10; Isaiah 53:5–6; John 3:16; Hebrews 7:25; Acts 2:36; Acts 4:12

Target Time: 45 to 50 Minutes

Format: Four distinct teaching segments (10 to 12 minutes each)

Scripture: King James Version exclusively

TEACHING OVERVIEW

Last week we settled who God is: the Uncreated Creator who began the beginning and stands outside of time.

This week we answer the second question: **Who is Jesus?**

The answer does not begin in a manger. It begins before Genesis 1:1.

Jesus is not a new arrival, not a created being, and not merely a good teacher who showed up in history. He is the eternal Word, coequal with the Father, who was with God and was God, and who intentionally stepped into the world He created.

We will not retell the Christmas story here. That is coming in December.

And we will not attempt a full doctrine of the Godhead here.

That is coming in the 2027 lessons.

This lesson keeps four things in front of the class:

1. **He was God before He came.**
2. **He came to get involved, not to stay distant.**
3. **He came to rescue the lost, and He has the right to command them.**
4. **He is Lord and Christ, worthy to lead, therefore He must be followed.**

SEGMENT 1: THE CREATOR STEPPED INTO HIS OWN WORLD (10–12 MINUTES)

Theme Statement

"He was before the world. Then He stepped into the world."

Scripture Focus

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

1. Trace the Word Back Before Verse One

Take the class straight back to last week's lesson.

Genesis 1:1 says, *"In the beginning God created."* John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word."* This is not a contradiction. This is GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON described from two angles.

- In Genesis, God speaks and the world appears.
- In John, we are told who that Word was: the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:3 nails it down: *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

If nothing was made without Him, then He Himself was not made.

He is the Uncreated Creator **in Person**. He did not have a beginning. He began the beginning.

2. He Did Not Send a Substitute

The plan was never to send an angel, a prophet, or a good man on loan. The plan was for God Himself to go.

- John 1:14 *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."*

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- Matthew 1:23 gives Him the name that settles it: *"and they shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted, is **God with us**."*

GOD WITH US.

- Not God watching from a distance.
- Not God sending word from outside the BIBLE.
- God stepping into the BIBLE.

3. This Was Not an Accident or a Backup Plan

Nothing about the arrival of Jesus was improvised.

It was settled before there was a world to come into.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**.

The cross was not God scrambling to fix a problem that surprised Him.

The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.

Before the first star burned, the RESCUE was already written.

Discussion Questions

- Why does it matter that the coming of Jesus was planned "before the foundation of the world" rather than decided after man fell?

THIS WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN –

The "**Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**" is the ultimate proof that salvation was never a "Plan B." It was the plan from the moment the Father and the Son contemplated the creation of man.

This reinforces the students' security in God's sovereignty.

SEGMENT 2: GOD WITH US, ACTIVELY INVOLVED (10–12 MINUTES)

Theme Statement

"He did not stay distant. He got involved."

Scripture Focus

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

1. The Purpose Statement of Heaven

Notice how often Jesus states His own mission in plain terms. He does not say, "I have come to be admired." He says, "I have come to save that which was lost."

- Matthew 18:11: *"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."*
- Luke 19:10: *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

Two things stand out.

First, He came to **SEEK**. That means He takes the initiative. The lost are not searching for Him; He is searching for them.

Second, He came to **SAVE**. That means the condition of the lost was serious enough to require RESCUE, not merely advice.

Teacher's Note on Matthew 18:11: Modern versions omit this verse from the text, they follow manuscripts that have dropped it. The King James Bible keeps it, and the doctrine it states is confirmed in plain language by Luke 19:10, which no version removes. If a student is using a modern version they will not be able find **Matthew 18:11** – Please show them **Luke 19:10**. The truth is not in doubt;

2. He Did Not Minister From a Distance

While He walked this earth, Jesus did not remain aloof. He engaged directly with the people He had made.

- **He healed the sick.** Disease did not frighten Him away.
- **He fed the hungry.** He cared about their bodies as well as their souls.
- **He preached the Kingdom of God.** He announced that God was reigning and that men must repent to enter.
- **He challenged the established religious and social structures.** He confronted the hypocrites in the temple courts and did not apologize for it.

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- **He taught love, forgiveness, and humility.** He washed feet, touched lepers, and forgave His murderers.

He did not pull back from the mess.

He walked straight into it.

Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

*"Once my soul was astray from the heavenly way,
And was wretched and vile as could be;
But my Saviour above, gave me peace, joy and love,
When He reached down His hand for me."*

3. The Difference Between a Watchmaker and a Father

Some people imagine God as a watchmaker: He built the world, wound it up, and walked away to let it run.

The life of Jesus destroys that idea completely.

- A watchmaker does not enter the watch.
- Yet - The Creator entered His creation.
- He ate with sinners, wept at gravesides, and slept in boats.
- **God with us** meant **God among us**, in the dirt, in the crowds, in the pain.

Discussion Questions

- What does it tell you about God's character that He chose to enter the world rather than simply issue commands from outside it?

TO THINK: YOU ARE THE REASON FOR WHAT HE DID

You must be SPECIAL!

SEGMENT 3: THE RESCUE AT CALVARY (10–12 MINUTES)

Theme Statement

"He came to rescue the lost, and He has the right to command them."

Scripture Focus

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Isaiah 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1. The Illustration: A Rescue in Progress

Have the class imagine a rescue operation. A building is burning, a ship is sinking, and a man is pinned under rubble (any scenario will work).

A trained RESCUER arrives on the scene.

What does the RESCUER say to the one being rescued?

"It is imperative that you listen to me. You must do everything I tell you. If you do, we will get out of here alive."

Now ask the class two questions:

1. **Why would the rescuer make such demands?** Because he knows the situation. He knows where the fire is, where the floor will collapse, and which exit is still open. The one trapped does not know any of that.
2. **Does the rescuer have the right to make such demands?** Yes. He has the knowledge, he has the authority, and he is risking his own life to do it.

That is exactly what Jesus is doing. He knows how to RESCUE us. He knows how to SAVE US from dying lost in our sin. He KNOWS HOW to get us to Heaven.

2. The Cost of the Rescue

This is where the rescue stops being an illustration and becomes Blood and History.

- Jesus did not come to hand out advice. **He came to pay a price.**
- His crucifixion was **the Sacrifice** that paid for human sin.
- His resurrection was **the Victory** over death itself.
- He offers **Eternal Life** and reconciliation between man and God.

John 3:16 puts the whole rescue in one sentence. God loved. God gave. Whosoever believes is saved. This is not a general hope; it is a specific offer with a specific condition attached.

3. He Is Able to Save to the Uttermost

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also **to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him**, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Read that phrase slowly: **to the uttermost.**

There is no case too far gone, no sin too deep, no life too wrecked, that the Rescuer cannot reach.

Not because the sinner deserves it, but because the Rescuer is able. Also, that is what a Rescuer does (THAT IS WHAT A SAVIOR DOES/ HE SAVES)

And notice the condition in the same verse: *"that come unto God by him."*

The RESCUER works on His terms, not ours. He always has and always will.

Discussion Questions

- Why does a RESCUER require obedience from the one being rescued?
- Since the Savior paid for the RESCUE with His own life, what claim does He have on the life of the one HE SAVED?

THINK: JESUS IS NOT JUST SAVIOR – HE IS LORD

SEGMENT 4: LORD AND CHRIST, WORTHY TO LEAD (10–12 MINUTES)

Theme Statement

"As Lord, He is worthy to lead. Therefore I must follow."

Scripture Focus

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord and Christ**.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1. Lord and Christ

Peter's sermon at Pentecost lands with two titles: **Lord** and **Christ**.

- **Christ** means He is the anointed one, the promised King.
- **Lord** means He has authority. He commands. He rules.

You cannot take the second title away and keep the first.

The One who SAVES you is the One who OWNS you.

There is no bargain version of the gospel where Jesus RESCUES you but does not get to LEAD YOU.

2. There Is No Other Name

— **Acts 4:12**

This verse is the dividing line between Christianity and every other claim on earth. Scripture does not say Jesus is one option among many.

It says there is **NONE OTHER NAME**. Not a better one, not an equal one. **None**.

The modern world insists that all religions lead to the same place. The Word of God says otherwise - it says it plainly enough that no honest reader can miss it.

3. The RESCUER Is the LEADER (LORD)

Return to the RESCUE illustration one final time.

- Listen to His voice. Obey His commands. Do what He asks. It is for your own good. Listen, obey, and live.

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This is the transition from **Created Creation** to **New Creation**. The person who trusts Jesus as Savior is not merely forgiven and left alone. They are made new, and the One who made them new takes up residence in them to lead them.

That is the next lesson.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it inconsistent to call Jesus Savior while refusing to call Him Lord?
- What does Acts 4:12 say to the modern claim that all paths lead to God?

CONCLUSION AND BRIDGE TO NEXT LESSON

Who is Jesus?

- He is the **Eternal Word**, present in the beginning, through Whom all things were made.
- He is **God with us**, who stepped into His Own Creation instead of staying distant.
- He is the **Rescuer**; He saves those who come to God by Him.
- He is **Lord and Christ**, worthy to lead, therefore worthy to be followed.

Next week we answer the Final Question in this series: **Who is the Holy Ghost?** Having seen the Creator and the Rescuer, we now examine the One who enters the saved and leads them in the ways of God.

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

— **John 3:16**

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

— **Acts 4:12**

Closing Prayer

"Lord Jesus, You were before the world and You stepped into it. You did not stay distant; You came to seek and to save that which was lost. Thank You for the Cross and for the Empty Tomb. Thank You that You are able to save to the uttermost. We confess You as Lord and Christ. Teach us to listen to Your Voice, to obey Your Commands, and to follow where You lead. In Your Holy Name, Amen."