

Who Is Jesus?

Week 5: Jesus is our Rescuer

Welcome Question

“What was the most important thing Jesus did?”

Introduction

Hi everyone! We are into our last teaching week of our “Who is Jesus?” series. For the past few weeks, we’ve all become detectives investigating who Jesus really is. We’ve learned about Jesus as Healer, Teacher, Friend and God’s Son. This week, we’ll hear about another important part, maybe the most important thing Jesus did on earth. That’s what our welcome question asked, “What was the most important thing Jesus did?” Let’s go over your answers now. *(go over answers written)* There were a lot of good answers, but the most important thing Jesus did was die on the cross for our sins. This was his whole mission, to seek and save the Lost. He came to save us, to be our Rescuer.

Large Group Lesson

This is Case #316, the Rescuer. I have four witness accounts of what Jesus did to be our Savior. Today, we’re going to divide into four groups and go over our evidence. It’s your job to ask the tough questions: Who? Why? When? And then report your findings to the group. This might involve you getting a little creative. Are you up to the challenge?

Jesus’ Crucifixion Case Studies

Pass out manila folders marked “evidence” for each grade. Each small group will use their file to study scripture related to Jesus’ teachings. Give the groups time to complete their study, then bring them back for a long group recap. (if time permits, they will complete their Bible challenge at the end).

K-1: The Way, The Truth, & The Life, John 14:1-7

1-2: The Trial, John 18:33-40

3rd: The Resurrection, John 20:1-18

4th: The Death & Burial, Matthew 27:45-61

Recap Discussion:

Allow each group to come together and share the findings from their investigations, then wrap-up the lesson. Have the kids recap their findings in the correct chronological order.

Today, we learned a lot about who Jesus is: our Rescuer. Jesus’ whole mission was like Luke 19:10 says, “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*” He came to rescue us, to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world. His life, death, burial and resurrection was all about saving you and saving your relationship with God so you could be in Heaven with Him.

Galatians 1:4 says, *“Jesus gave himself for our sins to free us from this evil world we live in. This is what God the Father wanted.”*

Jesus is the ONLY way to heaven. You can't be super good or amazing, nothing is good enough to save you unless you make Jesus your Savior. We needed to be rescued and Jesus came to do just that. John 3:16 says, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”*. Jesus loves you so much. God loves you so much that He'd give us His own son to save you. That's a lot of love. If you feel that you're ready to make Jesus your Rescuer and Savior, talk to a leader or pastor today.

Closing

You guys have been great investigators over the past few weeks! Next week, we'll review and play some games to show off everything you've learned in the “Who is Jesus” series. I hope to see all of you super sleuths here! Let's pray.

If time remains, dismiss back to small groups for Bible Challenge. If no time remains, pass out verse cards.

Case #316
Evidence #1
The Way, The Truth, The Life

Name of Witness: John

Personal Testimony of Witness:

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also From now on you do know him and have seen him." **John 14:1-7**

Evidence Report:

Who does Jesus tell the disciples to believe in? _____

What's in His Father's house? Who is His Father?

Where was Jesus going? _____

What did Thomas ask Jesus? _____

How did Jesus answer? _____

How did that show Jesus is our Rescuer? _____

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #316
Evidence #2
The Trial

Name of Witness: John

Personal Testimony of Witness:

33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" 40 They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 18:33-40

Evidence Report:

Who is Pilate? _____

Why is Jesus on trial? _____

Where is Jesus' kingdom? _____

What does Jesus say His purpose is? _____

Did Pilate find him guilty? Did he let him go? _____

Who did Pilate release instead? _____

How does this show Jesus is our Rescuer? _____

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #316
Evidence #3
The Resurrection

Name of Witness: John

Personal Testimony of Witness:

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there,⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to

the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. **John 20:1-18**

Evidence Report:

What has happened to Jesus? _____

Where is his body? _____

What do his follower think happened? _____

What really happened? _____

Who does Mary think Jesus is? _____

What does Jesus tell Mary? _____

What does Mary tell the disciples? _____

How does this show Jesus is our Rescuer? _____

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #316
Evidence #4
The Death & Burial

Name of Witness: Matthew

Personal Testimony of Witness:

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. **Matthew**

27:45-61

Evidence Report:

Jesus is being crucified on the cross. What was the weather like?

Could God have taken Jesus off the cross? Why didn't he?

What happens immediately after Jesus dies?_____

How did the men guarding Jesus respond?_____

Who buried Jesus?_____

Where did Joseph place Jesus' body?_____

How does this show Jesus is our Rescuer?_____

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Who is Jesus? Week 5 Bible Challenge

Bible Challenge will only be completed if time remains after large group recap

This week's Memory Verse: *"Jesus gave himself for our sins to free us from this evil world we live in. This is what God the Father wanted."* Galatians 1:4

Last week's verse: *"True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins."* 1 John 4:10

Go over this week's verse. Say it together a few times. Then transition into the Bible Challenge activity.

Draw it out!

Supplies: Markers, Paper

Give each child a sheet of blank paper. Have them write the memory verse on the page. Then, allow them to draw out what the verse describes. Talk about the importance of Jesus coming to Rescue us from Sin.

Prayer: Ask children if they have any prayer needs and then close in prayer.