

Jesus, the Christ

by Leigh Ann James

Introduction

JESUS! No other name in history evokes such emotion in the hearts and minds of so many people. He is referred to in so many ways: Jesus, the Christ; Jesus of Nazareth; the Prince of Peace; the Son of Man; and the Messiah, meaning the anointed one (*Theological Dictionary*, <http://timothyministries.org>). Who do you think Jesus is, and what does He mean to you?

Jesus came to earth in human form, lived a sinless life, and was crucified for the sins of all people. His mission was daunting, yet He fulfilled it willingly because He loves us so much. And though He doesn't force us to love Him, He longs to be in a love relationship with us.

This week, we will take a look at what the Bible says about who Jesus really is. There may be opportunities for you to lead members of your family to Christ. Here is a guide:

The ABC's of Salvation

Admit you have sinned (done wrong; disobeyed God). Tell God what you have done, be sorry for it, and be willing to quit. (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9)

Believe God loves you and sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins. Ask for and receive the forgiveness God is offering you. (John 3:16; Acts 16:31)

Claim Jesus as your Savior. Tell what God has done for you. Love God and follow Jesus. (John 1:12; Romans 10:13)

This week, you will need:

- Tuesday: a baby picture of each family member
- Wednesday: timer
- Thursday: salty snack and cups of water
- Friday: pen and piece of cardstock or heavy paper
- Weekend: an age-appropriate movie about Christ's sacrifice for your family to view

MONDAY

READ MATTHEW 16:13-17

Jesus was spending time with His disciples. He questioned them about His identity. Is it possible He was checking whether or not His disciples were beginning to get a clue about His identity as God's Son?

- *Can you imagine Jesus wanting to be known by you? How does that make you feel?*

Becoming a Christian is not determined by knowing about Jesus, but in knowing Jesus personally. It is not enough to know about Jesus, but to know Him as your Lord and Savior. Jesus longs to have a personal relationship with each one of us.

Take turns sharing about when you first recognized Jesus as your Savior. If there is anyone in your family who has not made a personal decision about Jesus, ask if they would like to make a decision now. Use *The ABC's of Salvation* in the Introduction. Pray together.

TUESDAY

READ JOHN 7:25-31

Imagine yourself standing near a group of people and you overhear them discussing your birth and questioning whether or not you belong to the family who claims you.

- *How do you think Jesus might have felt as the nearby crowd discussed Him?*

Hold up baby pictures, one at a time, of each family member. Try to find pictures that aren't so familiar to everyone. **Is this your baby picture? Or is this your baby picture? Are you sure the other picture doesn't belong to you?**

The Scripture clearly presents the truth about Jesus. The question is raised in this passage: Is He or isn't He the Christ? Jesus turns to this doubting crowd, a crowd who is quite familiar with the prophecy of His coming. He knows their thoughts. God's Word reveals who He is and each of us has the freedom to decide whether or not we believe Him to be God's Son. He has given us the freedom to choose.

Pray, asking God to help you to see Jesus for who He really is and to accept His love for you. Practice the unit memory verse.

WEDNESDAY

Set a timer to go off in 10 seconds. Have the youngest member of your family close his or her eyes; hide the timer so this family member can find it when it starts beeping. Next have your family close their eyes. Do not set the timer. Hide the timer. Give each family member an opportunity to find the timer.

- *Was it easier to find the timer when it was set, or when it was not set?*

Today we are going to be learning about a time when it might be hard to find Jesus.

Read John 7:32-36.

The Pharisees did not believe Jesus to be God's Son. They had used the laws of the Jewish religion for their personal and financial benefit and didn't like Jesus challenging them. Jesus warns the Pharisees that they will not always have an opportunity to find Him, or to choose Him. Their disbelief would be their downfall.

Read Isaiah 55:6. Just as the Pharisees had a choice to make, so do we. God gave free will to all when He created mankind. You can choose to accept Jesus as your Savior and live with Him forever, or you can choose to deny Him and be separated from Him for eternity.

If it is appropriate to lead one of your family members to Christ at this time, use *The ABC's of Salvation* as a guide.

Practice your memory verse. Close in prayer.

THURSDAY

Share a salty snack with your family. Wait until everyone is very thirsty before getting water for them.

Read John 7:37-39.

Jesus identifies himself as the giver of living water, or the giver of life in this passage.

■ *Imagine what these people might have thought about Jesus offering himself as living water. Share your ideas.*

When our bodies need water, we get really thirsty. You may have noticed this is true while eating the salty snack without water. God created us with a need for water, but He also created us with a need to be in relationship with Him. Without Him, our soul gets thirsty. The only problem is that we don't feel a physical thirst as a reminder.

- *What are some things in a person's life that might be a sign that they are thirsty for the living water—Jesus?*
- *What can you do to help someone who is searching for Jesus?*

Go over *The ABC's of Salvation* with your family. Explain that this is an easy way to remember the steps for leading someone to Christ.

Ask God to help you be aware of your need for Him. Ask Him to help you be sensitive to the needs for others to believe in Jesus. Ask for the courage to share Jesus' love with others.

FRIDAY

Discuss a rule that some family members disagree on. Discuss ways you may come up with a solution to this disagreement.

Open with prayer. Read John 7:40-44.

We do not always agree with each other, but because we love one another, we work our differences out in a kind way. In today's Scripture reading, some people thought that Jesus was a prophet and others concluded that He was their Christ. Evidence from the Scripture was used to make the point: "Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family . . ." They must not have known

of Jesus' heritage, but they used the best guide they could to back up their view, the Scripture. We can also use the Bible to provide evidence when settling our disputes. It has eternal truths that apply to our daily lives.

As a family, decide upon a meeting place in your home for settling family disputes. Make a poster with a few simple guidelines on it.

Practice your memory verse. Close in prayer.

WEEKEND

Talk with your family about rules that we have to keep us safe, such as: looking both ways before crossing the street, stopping at red lights, or wearing a seat belt. Explain why we have rules such as these.

Open with prayer. Read Isaiah 53:5 and Luke 9:18-22.

- **Why do you think Jesus warned Peter and the other disciples not to tell anyone who He is?**

Jesus knew that suffering was to come, but He had more work to complete on earth before succumbing to crucifixion for our sins. In order to stay safe, He had to conceal who He was until a later time. He did eventually fulfill the prophecy from Isaiah and die on the Cross for each one of us. He did this because of His great love for us.

Watch your movie choice together. Answer any questions that might come up.

Practice your memory verse. Close in prayer.

Unit Bible Verse

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it." (Acts 2:32)

