

Lesson #9 – One Story (Jesus)

Teacher Prep: The Bible is one long story about God's Love for us, expressed in many ways, and culminating in the coming of Jesus (the Christ) the Son of God. Jesus, through whom and for whom the world was made and who existed with the Father and the Spirit in the Beginning, came here as prophesied and died on the cross, taking away the sins of the world. Everything in the Bible, whether Old Testament or New, speaks of Him and leads us to Him. Whether through word pictures and symbols, or direct prophesy, His coming is foretold, explained and chronicled. He has preserved His Word for us. To God be the glory forever!

Major Points: **The Bible is God's Word**
The Whole Bible Tells Us of Jesus
Jesus Fulfilled Prophecies of the Messiah
Jesus will Come Again

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:15** *...from childhood you have known **the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

John 5:39 (Jesus said) *... **the Scriptures...testify about Me***

Luke 24:44-48 *Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**" Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

The Bible is God's Word

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*

- Hold up the Bible and say, “For the last several weeks we have been studying the Bible.
- We have learned many things about it. What are some of the things we have learned? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That’s right! We have learned that the Bible is God’s Word, that it was written by men across a long period of time, as they were inspired by God and moved along by the Holy Spirit.
- We know that it was written in two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament, both of which have lots of different books.
- Last time we learned that the Holy Spirit can and will help us interpret (or understand) the Bible.
- But there is one thing we have NOT learned. And that is WHY God chose to write down His Word for us. Why did He do it?

The Whole Bible Tells us of Jesus

- God wrote down His Word (and preserved it through the years) so that we would know how much He loves us.
- He has shown us that He loves us in many ways.
- The biggest and very best way He has shown His love to us is in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.
- Jesus said, in **John 5:39** ... *the Scriptures...testify about Me*
- Here Jesus was talking about the Old Testament.
 - He called them “the Scriptures.”
- We know that the New Testament tells us all about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.
- But, how is it that the Old Testament tells us about Jesus? (*Wait for answers.*)

Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies of the Messiah

- Yes! We have learned that in the Old Testament there were many prophecies that foretold (or told about) the Savior who was to come.
- The Savior was called the Messiah or the Christ.
- When Jesus was here, through His birth, life, death and resurrection He fulfilled those prophecies.
- **Read Luke 24:44-48** *Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

Jesus will Come Again!

- There are still more prophecies in the Bible about what the Messiah will do in the future.
- We know that Jesus will fulfill all of the remaining prophecies when He comes again.
- Prophecies from both the Old and New Testaments tell about what will happen in the future.
 - *Show on Time Line where we are now in relation to Jesus' life on Earth*
 - *Explain that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah when He was here.*
 - *Some of these prophecies have not happened yet, but they will when Jesus returns.*
 - *Show on the Time Line that the future is on the right side of us, here and now. That means it is still to come.*
- God knew what would happen when Jesus came, and He told people about it ahead of time.
- God also knows what will happen in the future when Jesus returns, and He has told us about it ahead of time in the Bible.
- We can rely on God, who is the only One who knows the future.
- We can know that God loves us and that He is always good.

Let's pray and thank God, who is good, for telling us about Jesus, in His Word.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for telling us about your Son, Jesus, in your Word.
Thank you that we can trust you.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Pictures of Christ – *The children will become more familiar with the concept of "foreshadowing" of the Messiah in the Old Testament Bible Stories.*

Before Class: Choose one or two of the examples given below to talk about with your class. Read through the familiar Bible Story and consider how it foreshadows who the Messiah would be and what His sacrifice would mean.

During Class: Read **John 5:39** (Jesus said) ... *the Scriptures...testify about Me*
Read **Matthew 24:25-27** (The **Road to Emmaus** – Matthew 24:13-27 and following)
And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Explain that clearly Jesus knew the Old Testament scriptures talked about Him and foretold His coming. Not only were there direct prophecies in the OT, about the Messiah, there were also pictures of Jesus (or foreshadowing) in the OT Stories that taught people WHY He would come and WHAT His sacrifice would mean.

The Story of Noah and the Ark – Found in Genesis 5:32-10:1. In this story, God's wrath is shown against the world in bringing a devastating flood that destroys all mankind, and all animals that breathe air, because of the sinfulness of Mankind. Genesis 6:9 says *Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.* Only Noah and his wife, along with his three sons and their wives are saved; eight people in all. Noah also took with him 2 of every kind of animal; male and female, that all of these species might be saved. They are all saved in an Ark, which was 300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits, made of gopher wood, and covered inside and out with pitch. This foreshadows the Christ as the One who would save His people from God's wrath. The 8 passengers were safe within the ark from the destruction brought about by God's wrath upon Mankind's sinfulness, and just so are all Believers safe in Jesus from the coming wrath of God on all sinners.

The Offering of Isaac – Found in Genesis 22:1-14. In this story, Abraham is tested by God when He tells him to offer up his son Isaac, as a sacrifice. Genesis 22:2 *"Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."* Abraham does exactly what God tells him to do, but God stops him before he harms the boy and provides a substitute sacrifice; a ram with its horns caught in a thicket. This story vividly foreshadows the death of the Christ, who is the Son of God. God gives us a picture of what He would do many years later, when He sacrificed His One and Only Son for the forgiveness of sin. It is significant as well that God sent Abraham to a certain hill in Moriah, as Moriah was the region where the city of Jerusalem would eventually be built, and the place where Jesus would later be crucified. (Hebrews 11:17-19 speaks of Abraham's faith that God could raise the dead and of how he received Isaac back from death, in a manner of speaking.)

Passover (Lamb) – Found in Exodus 12:1-13. In this story, God's wrath is shown against the Egyptians who have enslaved His people (the children of Israel) and who will not let them go. The Passover Lamb was a young lamb (sheep or goat) that was brought into each home, kept there for 3 days and then sacrificed. They roasted the lamb and ate it in a special dinner. The Lamb's blood was to be placed on the doorframes (sides) and lintel (top) of the door of the house and the people were to stay in the house all that night. Exodus 12:13 (God said to Moses) *The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.* The Passover Lamb and its blood foreshadow the blood of the Christ, which would be spilled to save Believers from God's coming wrath on all sinners. The people in the house, who did as God said and put the blood on their door, were safe from God's wrath that fell on all Egypt that night. The placing of the blood on the door actually formed a rough sign of a cross as they put it on the doorframes and lintel.

Jesus Fulfills the OT Prophecies of the Messiah – *The children will find some of the OT prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus.*

Before Class: Read through the Activity Sheet and determine how best to use it in your classroom. There are several options. You may assign different verses for individual children to look up and read aloud. You may make copies of the pages for each child and have them look up one or more sets of the verses, or cut them up and place them in their Bible Replicas. The children may work in small groups or pairs, if you like. Provide Bibles, pencils, scissors, and glue as necessary.

During Class: Distribute sets of verses or pages of verses as desired. Allow the children to look up the OT verses of prophecy with the corresponding NT fulfillment verses.

Explain that the OT prophecies of the Messiah were written hundreds of years or even a thousand years, before Jesus was born. Psalms (about 1012 BC) Micah (700's BC) Isaiah (about 538 BC), Zechariah (about 520 BC). It is estimated that the prophecy in Psalms 22:16, saying that His hands and feet would be pierced, was written about 800 years before the Romans ever started using crucifixion as a form of capital punishment.

Explain that there are 300 OT prophecies of the Messiah, which Jesus fulfilled. Mathematically, the chances of one person fulfilling all of these prophecies are staggering. But, Jesus did it! God put these prophecies in His Word, the Bible, so that we would recognize the Messiah when He came! Jesus is the Messiah!

For more information on Prophecies of the Messiah Fulfilled by Jesus, see these references:

Josh McDowell Ministries

<https://www.josh.org/jesus-fulfill-prophecy/>

Christian Broadcasting Network

<https://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/biblical-prophecies-fulfilled-by-jesus>

Science Speaks, Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible; By Peter W. Stoner, M.S. and Robert C. Newman, S.T.M., Ph.D., Moody Press Chicago. Online version, revised 2005, Donald W. Stoner.

http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html

Jesus Fulfills the Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah

Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah	New Testament Fulfillment by Jesus Christ
<p>Born of a Virgin Isaiah 7:14</p> <p>Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18 (also verses 19-23) ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2</p> <p>“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”</p>	<p>Luke 2:4-6</p> <p>⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.</p>
<p>Arrives in Jerusalem on a Donkey’s Colt Zechariah 9:9</p> <p>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout <i>in triumph</i>, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.</p>	<p>Matthew 21:1-2, 6-7</p> <p>When they had approached Jerusalem ...at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied <i>there</i> and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. ⁶The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, ⁷and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats</p>
<p>Betrayed by one close to Him Psalms 41:9</p> <p>Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.</p>	<p>John 13:18-19, 21</p> <p>I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but <i>it is</i> that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’ From now on I am telling you before <i>it</i> comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am <i>He</i>. When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”</p>
<p>Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12-13</p> <p>I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give <i>me</i> my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty <i>shekels</i> of silver</p>	<p>Matthew 26:14-16</p> <p>Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray</p>

<p>as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter, <i>that</i> magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty <i>shekels</i> of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.</p> <p>(NOTE: A shekel was a small piece of silver)</p>	<p>Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.</p> <p>Matthew 27:3-4, 7 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers.</p>
<p>Crucifixion prophesied Psalms 22:16 A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.</p>	<p>Luke 23:33a When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him...</p>
<p>Garments taken, lots cast Psalms 22:18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.</p>	<p>John 19: 23-25 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and <i>also</i> the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, <i>to decide</i> whose it shall be”; <i>this was</i> to fulfill the Scripture: “THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.” Therefore the soldiers did these things.</p>
<p>Resurrection! Psalm 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.</p>	<p>Luke 24:1-8a But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as <i>the women</i> were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, <i>the men</i> said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” And they remembered His words...</p>