

## Lesson 1 – Jesus: Son of God/ Son of Man

**Teacher Prep:** It's Christmas, or it will be soon, and it's time to be talking to your class about the greatest thing that has ever happened; the coming of the long-awaited Savior! People had been waiting for the Savior to come for about 4000 years, and suddenly, right on time, He shows up! The Eternal Word clothed in flesh, the Incarnation of God, the birth of a baby. Leave it to God to make it just that simple and straightforward. The birth of a baby. Something that happens every day. Something that everyone is familiar with. Something wildly complex and infinitely simple. And suddenly, He was here. Isn't God amazing?!

**Major Points:** **God Loved Us and Sent His Son**  
**Prophecy of Old Testament Fulfilled**  
**Jesus – Son of God and Son of Man**

**Scripture Ref:** **1 John 4:10** *In this is love, not that we loved **God**, but that He **loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**Lesson:** **God Loved Us and Sent His Son**

- What holiday is coming up? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That's right! Christmas is coming. And I know that we are ALL ready for it to be here.
- Christmas is fun and exciting... and fun!
- Why is it fun? (*Wait for answers... there will be lots.*)
- Yes! All those are fun parts of Christmas. And one of my favorite parts is... THE PRESENTS!
- Oh, yeah! I love the presents. I love getting them and I love giving them.
- There is another part of Christmas too! That is the Jesus part.
  - And actually, the Jesus part is the most important part!
- Jesus is the reason we have Christmas in the first place!
  - Jesus is also the biggest gift of Christmas!
  - He is the biggest gift any of us can ever get, because the coming of Jesus is a gift from God Himself.
- The Bible says, "*God... loved us and sent His Son!*"
  - Let's all say that together. (*Repeat once or twice.*)
- Since God loved us and sent His Son, we can have Christmas!
- And, if Jesus hadn't come yet, we would still be waiting for Him.
- Why would we be waiting? Let's talk about that some more....

### **Prophecy of Old Testament Fulfilled**

- Almost from the beginning of the world, God has promised to send a Savior (Messiah or Christ) for Mankind (all of us!)

- But WHY did God NEED to send a Savior?
- In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.
- God also created the first Man and Woman. (Adam and Eve.)
- Then God saw all that He had made and said it was very good.
  - There was nothing evil or bad in the whole earth. Can you imagine that? (*Stop and imagine for a moment.*)
- But that didn't last very long. Before you know it, Adam and Eve had broken the only law that God had given them to obey.
- Sin had come into the world. And with Sin, had come Death.
  - "Sin" is doing something that you know is wrong on purpose.
- Adam and Eve could no longer stay in the Garden and walk with God every day. They were sent away from God's presence.
- But God, who loves us, didn't want things to end that way.
- God promised that one day a Savior (the Seed of the Woman) would come to set everything right again between God and us.
- God wanted to be with us again forever.
- From then on, all through the years, God kept telling us that He was going to send the Savior.
  - We learned more and more about Him
  - We learned what He would be like
  - And what He would do while He was here.
  - The Scriptures foretold that He would be God's Son
- God's promises about the Savior were written down in the Bible.
  - These are recorded in the Old Testament.
- God wanted us to know that He loves us and that He was going to send His Son (the Savior.)
- When Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem, He fulfilled God's promise to send the Savior!

### **Jesus – Son of God and Son of Man**

- Jesus is the Son of God!
  - When Mary was visited by the angel to tell her that she would conceive and have a baby, who would be the Promised Savior, she didn't understand and she asked the angel how this would be since she was a virgin.
  - The Angel Gabriel answered "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*" **Luke 1:35**
- When Mary learned that God wanted her to be the mother of the Savior, who was to be named Jesus, she agreed to let this happen.
  - She said to the angel, "*Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.*"

- Mary understood that her baby, Jesus, would be the Son of God.
- When Jesus grew up and started His ministry (at about age 30) He often referred to Himself as “the Son of Man.”
- Why do you think He did that? (*Wait for answers.*)
- In the Old Testament, several of the prophecies about the Savior called Him the “Son of Man.”
  - Jesus is part of the eternal Triune God.
  - He is God the Son.
  - He is the only member of the Trinity who has become a human being and been born to a woman.
  - Therefore, He is also the “Son of Man”
- Do you remember when we heard about the promise in the Garden of Eden to Eve?
  - God said her Seed (or offspring) would destroy Satan.
  - Usually the seed was said to come from the man.
  - In this case, the woman (Mary) was a Virgin.
  - There was no seed from a man.
- The coming of Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise!
- So, Jesus is the Son of God AND the Son of Man.

Let’s pray and thank God for loving us and for sending His Son, Jesus.

Prayer: Dear God,  
 Thank you for Christmas!  
 Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus.  
 Thank you for loving us.  
 We love you back.  
 Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities that will work best with your group.

**Jesus, Son of God/Son of Man** – *The children will make a doorknob hanger with the words Son of Man and Son of God on either side.*

Before Class: Make a copy of the activity sheet for each child in class. Provide crayons or markers to color with, as well as yarn, glue or tape and scissors. You will need about an 8-inch piece of yarn for each child.

During Class: Allow the children to color the activity sheet first. Next, have them cut out the outside of the large rectangle (**Do NOT cut the dotted line!**) The dotted line down the middle is the fold line. Fold the large rectangle in half along the dotted line, so that the words show on both sides. Now have them flatten the paper out again and turn it over so they can see the back. Tape or glue one inch of each end of the yarn to the back of one of the folded sides at the top, so that a long loop is left free at the top. Then spread glue around the edges of all the sides of that rectangle. Lastly, fold the other side down, matching the edges, and glue them together. The loop should still be free at the top. When the glue is dry, the children may hang them on their doorknobs at home.

**The Incarnation of Christ** – Older students will review John 1 and learn more about how Jesus existed before He came as a baby in Bethlehem.

**Before Class:** Provide Bibles for the children doing this activity.

**During Class:** Ask the children to turn to John 1. You are going to read several verses of this chapter together. John, the Disciple of Jesus, wrote these words many years after Jesus had died, risen from the dead, and then ascended to His Father in Heaven.

Read **John 1:1-4** together. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*

- Explain to the children that these words are talking about Jesus. (The Disciple John is calling Jesus the Word.)

Read **John 1:14** together: *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- Explain that here John is explaining that the Word (Jesus) became flesh (came as a baby) and lived with us. (When Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem.) John and others saw Jesus' glory; glory as of the One and Only Son of the Father, who was full of grace and truth.

**Memory Verse** – The children will play a game to learn the memory verse: 1 John 4:10

**Before Class:** Clear an area of the room, so that the children may run back and forth.

**During Class:** Explain that you are all going to learn the memory verse together! Divide the children into two groups. Line up one group on one side of the room and the other on the other side. The first group says the first half of the memory verse ("God loved us...") then the second group says the second half of the verse. ("... and sent His Son!") When they have both said their parts they run across to the opposite side. Now you play again. Have them alternate which parts of the verse they say. When everyone knows it, you can have one group say the whole verse and the other group say "1 John 4:10". (Have fun... Don't break anything!)

**Prophecies Fulfilled** – The children will look up prophecies of the birth of Christ.

**Before Class:** Provide Bibles for the children to look up verses.

**During Class:** Have the children look up the verses in the Old Testament that give some of the prophecies the coming Messiah. Then find the corresponding verses in the New Testament that show how Jesus fulfilled those prophecies. Read them together out loud. Talk about how the Old Testament was written many hundreds of years before Jesus the Messiah (or Christ) was born. Only God can promise things before they happen!

Prophecy (or Promise)	Old Testament	New Testament Fulfillment - Prophecy
Virgin shall bear a child	Isaiah 7:24	Matthew 1:18-23, and Luke 1:34-35
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6
Of the Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Hebrews 7:14
Of the House of David (son of Jesse)	Jeremiah 33:15,17 and Isaiah 11:1-3	Matthew 1:1; and Luke 1:32

Jesus

Jesus

Son

Son

of

of

Man

God