

JESUS IS THE WORD

ADVENT - JESUS IS

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE WORD

Psalms 33:6; John 1:14; 1 John 1:1; John 17:14-17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 19:13

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

BIG IDEAS

- The Word has always been.
- The Word is powerful.
- The Word is God in the flesh.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-7

Many prophecies foretold the coming of the Messiah. In Isaiah, God proclaims through His prophet that the Savior was coming. This Savior is not only the King of all things who will save the world from the darkness of sin, but also God's living Word. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, and the only one who perfectly obeys God's law. This Jesus, the Promised King, is the Word God spoke to the world.

FOUNDATION: ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the Word, fully God, fully man, and our only hope.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the living fulfillment of God's Word.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- Jesus is our only hope.



Every child should feel:

- Thankful that Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- Wonder and awe at the reality of the incarnation.
- Burdened for those who do not know the good news



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize John 1:1-4, 9-14 (pick verses based on stage of development that they are in)
- Give to or serve someone sacrificially who doesn't know Jesus as a means to share the good news about Jesus with them.



Every child should want:

- Know more about Jesus.
- To give to others because God gave his Son for us.

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE WORD HAS ALWAYS EXISTED

God is eternal and His Word has always existed. God chose to speak to the world through His Word, Jesus. Through Jesus, God revealed His glory through the salvation offered through Jesus.

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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

God has always existed as one God in three persons.

"In the beginning was the Word..."

- In the story of Creation, we get our first glimpse at the triune nature of God.
- Though God is only one God, He exists in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. John 1:1 echoes back to Genesis 1:1 when the Apostle John begins his account of the gospel with "in the beginning..." Jesus has always existed. He is not a created being.
- Jesus is the Word of God and He has always been. He was present and active at Creation. He is fully God and has always been so.
- Even when He took on human flesh, He still remained fully God. Jesus is one of the three persons of God and He is the way in which God chose to speak to the world.

The three persons of God exist in relationship to one another.

"and the Word was with God..."

- When John says, "the Word was with God", he is referring to Jesus and the relationship of the Son to the Father. All three persons of God are in a perfect relationship with one another.
- Jesus, or the Word was present with God in the very beginning of the creation because Jesus has always been. The Holy Spirit was also present with God at creation¹.

All three persons are fully and equally God.

"and the Word was God."

- The triune nature of God is not easily understood by man, but God has revealed all we need to know about Him in His Word. We know that God is one, and He exists in three persons. These three persons are fully and equally God.

1. Genesis 1:2: In the beginning, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are present and involved.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-7*The Promised King*

Supporting Scripture: Exodus 3, 19:9, 25:8; John 1:1

Teacher Introduction:

In Isaiah 9:1-7, the prophet foretells of the coming Savior of the world. This prophecy is connected to the Apostle John's proclamation of Jesus' deity in John 1:1 when he says "In the beginning was the Word..." Jesus is the promised Messiah and King that Isaiah spoke of and He is the Word that John says has always been. It's important to note that God was saying something to the world when He sent Jesus to take on human flesh. Prior to Jesus' entrance into the world, God spoke to His people through His prophets and His Law. When Jesus entered the world, God was speaking to the world through His Son. God was saying that His promised and long-ago foretold King had come, and salvation was near. God's Word was now alive in human form. The prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-7 speaks of Jesus' deity and His humanness when the prophet says "for to us a child is born...and His name shall be called...Mighty God..." Only God's promised Messiah could be called Mighty God. Only Jesus, the Son of God could take on human flesh and pay the sin debt owed by man. Isaiah further speaks of the Messiah's deity when he says, "of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end..." Only God's kingdom will last forever. When John opens his gospel with "1:1", he is saying that God is no longer speaking through laws and prophets, but instead through a person. Jesus is the living Word!

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth that the same Jesus who is shown as the promised King in Isaiah 9 comes as the Word of God in the flesh. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson, and the footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the children to think about and process these promises about Jesus that are fulfilled.

Opening Illustration:

Gather together dry beans, glue, and white paper. On the white paper write the word PROMISE with the glue. Next, help the preschoolers place the dry beans on the glue. As you do, talk with them about how God promised to send the Messiah and He fulfilled His promise when Jesus came. Tell them that God spoke through Jesus, His Word.

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JESUS IS THE WORD**BIG IDEA: THE WORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN.²****Jesus is eternal**

- Jesus is everlasting. Isaiah speaks to His being everlasting in Isaiah 9:6b, "...Everlasting, Father, Prince of Peace." This statement by Isaiah means that Jesus will never end.
- Jesus has no beginning and no end. His kingdom will always be. He will always exist as God the Son. Nothing can overcome Him or stop Him from being the Son of God.
- In John 1:1, the apostle speaks of Jesus' eternal nature when he says the Word was with God in the beginning. Jesus is the Word that John is talking about and the Word of God is everlasting. It does not change, nor does it end.



Place a stool or chair at the front of the room. Have the preschoolers take turns sitting on the stool. Ask the rest of the class to name the preschooler on the stool. Next, ask the class how they know who is on the stool and how old the person on the stool is. Tell them that everyone has a beginning, or birth, except for Jesus. Remind the preschoolers that Jesus is God's Word and God's Word has always been.

Jesus has always been the Son of God.

- God has always existed as one God in three persons. This means that Jesus has always existed as God the Son.
- Jesus was not created, nor was He born. It is tempting to believe that because Jesus entered the world as a baby when He came to earth that His birth was the beginning of His existence.
- Jesus is fully God, which means He has no beginning and no end. He was not born like we are born. He intentionally took on human form to be like us.

Jesus is the Word.

- John 1:14 tells us that Jesus is the Word that John is referencing in John 1:1. Jesus is the incarnation of God.
- In Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus is seen as coming into the world shining His light of righteousness on the world's darkness.
- Jesus is God's Word because He is the way that God chose to speak to the world.
- It is through Jesus that people understand the salvation available to them and are reconciled to God.

Who is the Word of God? (Jesus is the Word of God.)

2. John 1:1: Jesus is the Word of God and He has always been.

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JESUS IS THE WORD**BIG IDEA: THE WORD IS POWERFUL.³****God's Word is mighty.**

- It is by God's Word that the heavens and the earth were created. All of creation began to exist because of the power of God's Word.
- God's word is mighty because God is mighty. Isaiah 9:6b says that the coming Messiah would be called Mighty God.
- Nothing can prevail against God's Word because it is all-powerful.
- John 1:1a reveals this power when the apostle says that the Word was God. He means that Jesus is God and Jesus is mighty and powerful.



Bring in a measuring tape and measure each child's bicep. Talk with the preschoolers about how our muscles give us strength to walk, talk, and run. Even though we can become very strong, we are not as strong or powerful as God's Word.

Jesus is the way God spoke to the world.

- Because Jesus is the Word of God, the Word is powerful. Jesus came to the earth and overcame sin and temptation by living the perfect life.
- Jesus was perfectly obedient to God the Father. He lived among men as a man and never once sinned against God the Father.
- Jesus's power is mighty. It is divine.
- When Jesus went to the cross, His death was the God speaking to the world saying that sin would no longer triumph over man.
- God spoke through Jesus on the cross to show the world that there was hope.

The Word sets the captive free.

- When Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come, he foretold the way Jesus would overcome the darkness of the world.
- Jesus' death defeated sin, setting the captive free from the hold of sin over his life.
- Just as God's powerful Word spoke creation into existence, His powerful Word stopped the power that sin and death had over the world.
- Now, anyone who believes in Jesus as the Savior is set free from their sin and are no longer condemned to eternal death.

How is the Word of God powerful? (It paid man's sin debt and set the captive free from sin.)

3. John 1:1: God's Word is powerful. It created everything and everyone and it holds all things together.

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JESUS IS THE WORD**BIG IDEA: THE WORD IS GOD IN THE FLESH.⁴****Jesus is the divine expression of God.**

- Before Jesus came to the earth, God revealed Himself through creation and His mighty works on the earth.
- The Israelites experienced the presence of God in the form of thunder, lightning, burning bushes, and the Ark of the Covenant in the temple.
- It's significant to note that the birth of Jesus was God coming to man in the flesh.
- Jesus was fully man, but He was not just a man.
- He was God coming to live and walk among mankind.



On a large piece of paper draw the outline of one of the preschoolers. Next, let the preschoolers add different aspects of a person to the outline that resembles themselves. For example, have a preschooler color hair on the outline to match their own hair color and etc. Remind the children that Jesus took on flesh to be human like us. He became a man to be human, but He was still God, like the outline looks like the class, but is still paper.

Jesus has a divine nature and a human nature.

- Jesus is the way that God revealed Himself to the world physically.
- Jesus is unique in that He has two natures—a divine one and a human one.
- Jesus reveals Himself as God through His divine nature. Through His human nature, He reveals that He is the Savior of the world.
- Because Jesus took on flesh, lived the perfect life, and then died on the cross, His death satisfied the sin debt that we owed.

Jesus is God's glory revealed to the world.

- In Isaiah 9:1-7, the Messiah is seen as the victor over the darkness of this world. This is the glory of God.
- God revealed His power and glory through His Son.
- Jesus' victory over the darkness of this world showed the world just how glorious God is.
- Jesus' willing sacrifice for our behalf showed God's glory. Jesus did what only God could do.
- When He came to the earth, He sacrificed all His divine privilege to save mankind, revealing the glory of God.

Who is the Word? (The Word is God in the flesh.)

4. John 1:1: The Word is God.

5. Exodus 3, 19:9, 25:8: God revealed Himself through in spirit form to the Israelites.

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CHURCH HOOKS



The Word Is Powerful

Bring in several soft objects and several hard objects, such as cotton balls and rocks. Have the preschoolers take turns feeling each object and identifying them as powerful or weak. Once they finish identifying all the objects lead them in a discussion about how God's Word is powerful.



- God's Word is more powerful than anything.
- God's Word gives us life and offers us hope.



The Word Is Eternal

Bring several objects that are round, such as a hula-hoop, ball, or ring. Allow the preschoolers to hold each object and talk to them about how each object doesn't have a beginning or an end. Lead them in a discussion about how God's Word is eternal and doesn't have a beginning or end.



- God's Word has always existed because God has always existed.
- God's Word doesn't have a beginning or end.
- His Word is eternal, which means it has always been and it will always be.

The Word Is God In The Flesh

Bring in several rolls of toilet paper. Have the preschoolers take turns "putting on" the toilet paper by wrapping their arms and legs in the paper. Talk to them about how the Word is God in the flesh. Jesus took on flesh by becoming a man and became like us. Remind them that Jesus is God coming to the earth to die for our sin.

- When Jesus came to the earth, He took on flesh and became like us to save us.