

PRESCHOOL
GUIDE
9

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

FOUNDATION: GOD IS SON - GOD GIVES A RESCUER

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Psalm 2:7; Matthew 1:18-22; 3:16-17; 16:16; 17:5; John 1:14-18; Romans 1:1-7; Hebrews 1:1-4; 1 John 5:6-11

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 20:31

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in his name.”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is God with us.
- Jesus is the promised Son.
- Jesus is the saving Son.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:1-20; ISAIAH 9:6

Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus Christ is an account of the great sacrifice of the Father. God sent His Son to the earth to be born as a baby. Jesus is the Son of God and at His birth the angels rejoiced from Heaven at His birth. The news of His arrival was great news indeed. The Savior had come.

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God not only exists as Father, but also as Son. Jesus is the Son of God. Through the incarnation (putting on flesh), Jesus became fully God and fully man. There has never been and never will be a man like this. Even though Jesus was fully God, He chose to empty Himself and submit to the will of God the Father. God sent His Son to be our rescuer. This is only possible through Jesus’ sacrificial death in our place on the cross. The good news is that Jesus did not stay dead, but rose from the grave defeating sin and death!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus rescued us from our sins when He died on the cross



Every child should be able to:

- Explain why we pray “in Jesus’ name”



Every child should feel:

- Awe that God loves us so much he would send His Son to rescue us



Every child should want:

- To love Jesus who is our rescuer and to learn more about him

FAMILY DEVOTION: JESUS IS THE SAVING SON

God in His great love for us did not spare His only Son. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the one sent to save the world from their sins. He is the only way back to the Father and it is only through Him that we can have eternal life.



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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 20:31

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in his name.”

Jesus Is The Saving Son**Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**

- John emphasizes Jesus’ Son-ship in his account of the Gospel with a clarifying statement of truth.
- Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- John’s statement is more than a reiteration of Jesus’ identity.
- It was important that all people understand the great nature of the birth, life and death of Christ because all of salvation hangs on it.
- Jesus is not just any rescuer sent to save the world. He is the Son of God—the only Son of God, our unique rescuer.

Belief in Jesus gives new life

- Jesus came to the earth and took on humanity so that man might be reconciled with God.
- John reiterates the truth that it is through Jesus that man comes to God.
- It is not good works or deeds, but a belief in the saving work of Jesus that brings man back to God.
- It is only the promised Son of God who can rescue God’s people.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s Promise

- John refers to Jesus as the Christ which is the Greek word for the Hebrew word “Messiah”.
- God’s people would have been looking for the Messiah. They would have heard of the promised Messiah for many generations.
- John closes his section of the Gospel of Jesus with a reminder that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Promised Son of God.

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JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:1-20, ISAIAH 9:6

The Savior of the World is Here!

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 3:15, Colossians 1:15-17, Micah 5:1-2, Zechariah 9:9

Teacher Introduction:

The coming of the Messiah was a much anticipated event. Isaiah's prophecy about the coming child was a declaration of God's great love to His people. It was part of God's rescue plan to bring His people back to Him. Isaiah's belief and certainty of the coming promised Son was apparent in his use of the present tense in his declaration of the promised Child.

God was preparing His people for the salvation that was coming to them in the form of a baby. Luke chronicled the birth of Jesus, emphasizing Jesus as the Son of God. There has never been and never will be another son born like Jesus who is God Himself. Luke's awe at the birth of Christ is apparent as he describes the angels' response of praise and worship and the shepherds' recognition of the Messiah. The Savior had come and all of heaven rejoiced at His coming. He was God's great gift to mankind.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the foundational truth "Jesus is the Son of God". The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative *The Savior of the World is Here!* Endnotes 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 students to think about and process the narrative---*The Savior of the World is Here!*

Opening Illustration:

Use a crown and a scroll that will serve as an announcement of Jesus' birth to teach the preschoolers about the anticipation of the coming Child. Show them to the children.

- Do you know whose these are? (They are for Jesus.)
- Why would Jesus get a crown? (He is God and King of everything.)
- Who's son is Jesus? (He is God's Son.)
- Jesus is God's Son and He's also God. He is king of everything. He came to earth to rescue us from our sins. He's the great Rescuer.

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JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS GOD WITH US.

Jesus' birth is the coming of God Himself to us.

- Isaiah's prophecy about the birth of Jesus is a declaration of a unique event in the history of man.
- The promised Son coming was God Himself.
- There had never been a son like this before and there would never be one like Him again.
- Jesus was Immanuel, or God with us. He was special and His birth was one of the most significant events in the history of the world.

Isaiah's prophecy reveals the divine nature of the coming child.

- Isaiah spoke of the promised Child in terms used to describe God, Himself.
- He is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father.¹
- The Son that Isaiah prophesied about is God and God was coming down to the earth to live among His people.²

The promised Son is the fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

- Isaiah's words describing the coming Child were from God. They were God's promise to His people that their Savior was coming.
- His words were His promise that He was going to rescue them from their sin; a promise He had made as soon as sin entered the heart of man in the Garden of Eden.³
- It was good news that the Promised Child was coming. It was awe-inspiring that God was humbling Himself and being born as a baby to live among man. It was good news indeed!

Had there ever been a Son born like Jesus? (No, Jesus was God Himself and God had promised to come as His Son and no one else.)



Help the preschoolers understand that Jesus' birth was special because He is the Promised Son. Lead them in a discussion about how exciting it is to look forward to their birthdays. Ask them to tell about a favorite gift they have received and the excitement they felt waiting to get the gift. Remind them that Jesus was the Promised Son. His birth was an exciting time!

1. Isaiah 9:6-7: Isaiah's description of the coming Child is phrased with terms reserved for God. This description reveals that the promised Son is God, Himself.

2. John 1:14; 10:30-33, Colossians 1:15-17: Jesus is fully God and in His coming to the earth, He took on humanity that He might present Himself the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is God with us.

3. Genesis 3:15: God's promise of the child who would crush Satan's head is the promise that He Himself would come down to earth to rescue His people.

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BIG IDEA: JESUS IS THE PROMISED SON.

The Son of God entered the world fulfilling the great promise of God.

- Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is one full of great awe and wonder.
- Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, Joseph's ancestral home. They were not there solely to give birth, but instead to register with the Roman government.
- Yet, this journey to Bethlehem was more than a census transaction. It was the fulfillment of a promise made centuries before.⁴

Many people had looked forward to the birth of the promised Son.

- God's people had heard about the promised Son beginning with Abraham. They had looked for His coming.
- They most likely didn't understand exactly how He would come.
- Most thought He'd come as a mighty king with lots of wealth and servants attending Him.
- But God's Son came as a baby.

Luke's account reveals the humbleness of Jesus' birth and His exaltation.

- The promised Son didn't come with great pomp and circumstance.
- Instead he was born as a baby into a carpenter's family.
- Though He was born in a stable, where animals and livestock were kept and He was laid in a manger that was really a watering trough, He was the Promised One! He was God's Son!⁵
- Heaven rejoiced at the birth of the Son of God. The Angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds declaring the great news that the Savior had come.
- The exaltation of Jesus is revealed when the heavens opened and the multitude of angels are seen and heard praising God's name.
- The shepherds may not have expected to find the Messiah in a manger in a stable, but when they saw Him, they left rejoicing and praising God. The Promised One had come!

Why were the shepherds rejoicing when they saw Jesus? (They understood that He was the Messiah and God's people had waited many, many years for Him to come.)



Help the preschoolers understand the expectation of the promised Child by singing "Joy to the World" with them. Remind them that many, many people had been waiting for the Promised One and now that He had come, they were very excited.

4. Micah 5:1-2: Micah's prophecy of the exact location of Jesus' birth is one example of God orchestrating history. This prophecy would have occurred some 700 years prior to Jesus' birth. It was God's plan from the beginning to send Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem that His Son might be born there.

5. Zechariah 9:9: The prophecies concerning the Son of God's birth were detailed, revealing God's plan from the beginning to send His Son in the most unlikely of ways. Zechariah prophesied centuries before the actual birth that Jesus would be born in a stable and laid in a manger.

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS THE SAVING SON.**Jesus is the Savior though He was born a lowly birth.**

- When God's people sinned and death entered the world, they experienced a separation from God.⁶
- The birth of Jesus, the Promised One, provided a way back to God for man.
- This way is only through Jesus who is the saving Son.⁷
- Jesus' birth in a stable did not take away from His divinity. It further exemplified His humanity.

Jesus is the center of God's rescue plan for His people.

- Even though sin entered the heart of man through Adam and Eve, God never intended to leave mankind hopeless.
- Even though Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden and mankind was separated from God, He never intended to leave them separated.
- God always had a rescue plan and His Son Jesus is at the heart of it.
- Jesus' birth was an occasion for rejoicing and celebration because the shepherds knew that salvation had come.⁸

Salvation is through the saving Son alone.

- Our rescue is found in this Son of God who is God.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man when He was born in Bethlehem that night.
- His humanity was necessary in order for Him to be a satisfactory sacrifice for the sins of mankind.⁹
- As Jesus entered the world in the form of a baby, He brought with Him salvation for all of the world.
- He fulfilled God's great rescue plan that had been in place since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden.

Who is the saving Son? (Jesus is the saving Son.)

Is there another person who can rescue us from our sins? (No, only Jesus can rescue us from our sins.)



Help the preschoolers memorize John 20:31 by playing London Bridge is Falling Down with them. Every time a child is caught in the bridge, they should say the verse aloud. Remind them that it is great news that Jesus is the Son of God and we can have eternal life by believing in Him.

6. Isaiah 59:2: The sin of mankind had produced a separation between man and God. God is holy and is not united with sin; therefore, man is separated from God.

7. John 14:16: Jesus is the only way to the Father. No one can come to the Father or enter heaven unless he goes through the blood of Jesus.

8. John 3:16, Romans 10:9: Jesus was the promised salvation and only through Him can man be reconciled to God.

9. Hebrews 2:9, Philippians 2:7: Jesus lowered Himself to become like man in order to die the sinless death to pay the price for man's sin.

HOOKS

**Jesus Is God With Us**

Lead the preschoolers in a discussion about how Jesus is fully God. Remind them that Jesus is part of the Trinity, which is made up of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Jesus is the Son. To help with your discussion, read Isaiah 7:14 out loud. Tell the preschoolers that “Immanuel” means “God with us.” This means that God came among us as a baby and lived a sinless life on this earth.



- Who is Immanuel? (Jesus is Immanuel because He is God and He came to live among us.)
- Why did Jesus come to the earth? (He came to save His people from their sins.)

**Jesus Is The Saving Son**

In a small box or bag place a piece of paper with the word “God” on it. Place it somewhere in the room where the preschoolers can see it. Then on another piece of paper write the name “Jesus” on one side and “God” on the other. Hide it somewhere in the room separate from the piece of paper with God on it. Then place many obstacles between the preschoolers and the box or bag. Make it impossible for them to get to it. Allow them to try to get to it, but they shouldn’t be able to actually get the paper with “God” only on it.



- Are we able to get to the box? (No, there are too many obstacles in our way.)
- How will we get to God then? (We can’t; there’s no way to get to God on our own.)

Lead them to the paper with Jesus written on it. Pull it out and let them see it.

- We couldn’t get to God by ourselves, but who made a way for us? (Jesus made a way.)
- Flip the paper to show them “God” on the other side.
- How can we get to God now? (Through Jesus.)

The Father Has Created a Special Family

Before class wrap one or two small gifts. They can be something that the entire group could share when the gift is opened. Make sure they are wrapped either in birthday paper or Christmas paper. Place the gifts at the front of the room and allow the children to touch them and shake them. Lead them in a discussion about the expectation of waiting for a birthday or Christmas gift.

- Who would like to know what’s inside these gifts?
- Why do you want to know? (They are curious, excited to know what’s inside.)
- How hard is it to wait to open gifts on Christmas morning? (Really hard, too hard sometimes.)
- What feelings do you get on the inside when you’re waiting to open gifts? (Excitement, nervousness, etc.)
- Why do you feel this way? (You’re really looking forward to the gift or surprise.)

Everyone was looking forward to the coming of the Promised Son. When Jesus arrived He was that Promised Son and people had been expecting Him for a really long time. They were happy He was here. You can open the gifts yourself or allow the children to do so at the end.