

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 1:6-18

FOCUS: The Word Became Human and Our Redeemer

MEMORY VERSE: John 20:30-31

CATECHISM QUESTION: *New City Catechism*

#21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly human and also truly God.

#22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

ANIMAL SOUNDS

You will need the following:

- Slips of paper, animal names (2 of each)
- Blindfolds (optional)

1. Give each player a piece of paper with an animal listed. Make sure you only hand out an animal whose pair is given to someone else. Instruct players not to reveal what their animal is and to keep it a secret.
2. Blindfold each player. Ask all the players to find their match, the other person with the same assigned animal as them, by only using the sounds which their animal makes. Players cannot speak, remove the blindfolds, or perform any actions other than moving around the room.
3. Watch as the players try to find their matches. As different pairs of people find the correct match, check the papers they have to make sure they are actually the same animal. If not, send them back to the group to keep looking. Those who have found their pair should remove themselves from the game area to avoid further confusion. If time is a constraint, use a timer or stopwatch to make sure the game lasts for only a set amount of time.
4. Make the game more interesting by choosing a wide variety of exotic animals and "common" animals that most people would know such as lions, baboons, blue whales, camels, elephants, and otherwise. The more variety, the more fun is had by players as they listen to the crazy noises going on around them!
5. **Winning the game:** This is an icebreaker game that doesn't necessarily have winners and losers. If you'd like to add a competitive edge to it you can rank players based on who finds their match first.

SAY THE FOLLOWING: To play this game, you had to become like the animals. In today's lesson, we're going to hear about Someone becoming like us!

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class..)

I. Introduction

If you were with us last week, then you know that we are studying the Gospel of John, just like your parents in the sermon. We are studying each verse inductively, a big fancy term that just means that we are studying the words to figure out what the Bible means. We'll be marking down the key words again. Can anyone remind us of what *key words* are? **Key words are 1) words that are used over and over again, 2) are important, 3) used by the writer for a reason** Great job remembering that!

Let's see what you remember from the first five verses of John that we studied together last week.

1. Who is called the "Word"? **Jesus**
2. How long has the "Word" existed? **Eternal existence, He was in the beginning**
3. Jesus, the "Word", came to bring two things into the world. What were those two things?
Light and Life

Today, we're going to be learning even more about the Star of our Movie on John's Gospel. One guess who the star is going to be? That's right--Jesus! So quiet on the set--let's get started!

II. Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

III. Key Words

Before we read John 1:6-18 together, let's review the KEY WORDS that we are looking for: WORD, GOD, LIFE, LIGHT, DARKNESS, JOHN, WITNESS, WORLD, JESUS. Witness may be a newer word for some of you. What does it mean to witness or to be a witness? **A witness is someone who sees an event take place. It also means proof or evidence.** That's going to be important as we study this section, especially for next week's passage.

Read John 1: 6-18 very carefully, "looking for the key words listed... Every time you find one of these words, mark or color it in a special way. Key words give us clues about what is most important in the passage of Scripture we are studying. Taking the time to mark them will help you figure out for yourself what the Bible is teaching." (p. 9, *Jesus in the Spotlight*) **The key words with their symbols should be written on the whiteboard ahead of time. Allow students time to mark the key words. (I also like to mark pronouns that refer back to the key words, such as him in verse 3-4.)**

IV. The Star

Since Jesus is the star of both our movie and this passage, we need to find out more about Him.

1. In verses 3 and 10, what does John tell us about Jesus? **Jesus created the world and everything in it**
2. Jesus is the creator. He created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He created the tree that He told them not to eat from. Jesus even created the sneaky snake that tempted Eve to disobey God. But did Adam and his wife obey God? No, they disobeyed and ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Since that day, every human that has been born has been a sinner. We are born sinful and separated from God. God promised to redeem His children from their sinfulness by coming Himself! God Himself would be our Redeemer.
3. Look at verse 14. What does it say that Jesus did? **He became flesh and dwelt among us**

4. Wow! The promise that the world had been waiting for had finally come! God became flesh, a human, and lived with us on earth.
5. Did the world love and accept Jesus, the God-Man? Look back at verses 10 and 11. *No, Jesus had created the world but they did not know Him.*

V. Catechism Question:

To understand this section, we need to understand why the Word, Jesus, had to become human. Why was this so important? One of the ways that we can remember and understand the answers to these tough theological questions is to memorize catechism questions. Your parents have been sent a link to download an app with these questions and answers. The app also has catchy songs to help you remember the point. But we're going to be working on them in class also.

#21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly human and also truly God.

#22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

After introducing the questions to the children, repeat #22 a couple of times. So let's go back to the question I asked you earlier. John 1:14 says that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us". Why is this important? *Refer back to the catechism questions if necessary*

STORYBOARD

"When a director plans a movie, he first creates what is known as a storyboard. A storyboard is a rough sketch of each of the main scenes in a movie." (p. 7, *Jesus in the Spotlight*) We'll be working together to create a storyboard for the first chapter this next month. If you were to draw a picture that shows the main point of John 1:6-18, what would it be? Do the best job that you can because I'll be keeping these from week to week. Who knows? You might even get to see them show up in a movie in a couple of months! *(I [Courtney] plan on scanning the kids' drawings and making a slideshow "movie" with music every couple of months.)*

Read John 1:6-18 aloud while students draw a picture of the main theme/events.

MEMORY VERSE

Ask students to stand and recite memory verse, John 20:30-31 aloud 2-3 times. Matching actions to the words aids in memory.

Student Page: _____

Instructions: Use colored pencils or crayons to mark each of the KEY WORDS with its unique symbol.

JOHN 1

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. **11** He came to his own, and His own people did not receive Him. **12** But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") **16** For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

#21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly _____ and also truly _____.

#22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly _____ the whole _____ and suffer the _____ for human _____; and also that he might sympathize with our _____.



God



Life



Darkness

World

John

Witness