

LESSON 26

Jesus Claims to Be God

JOHN 10:22-30



————— BIBLE TRUTH —————

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, IS GOD AND IS ONE WITH THE FATHER IN HEAVEN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 10:22–30 from the Scriptures or read story 104, “Jesus Claims to Be God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Guess the Voice

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ digital recorder

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

What Is the Most Significant Verse?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencils and paper
- ✓ Bibles for the class

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Good Shepherd

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Play Out the Scene

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several costumes—flat sheets and towels and rope belts
- ✓ John 10:22–39 printed on card stock with the words and actions of the Jews highlighted—one for each student

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus is the Good Shepherd—Isaiah described God this way: “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11). By calling himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Jesus identified himself with the prophetic messianic Shepherd of Isaiah. Ezekiel prophesied, “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy” (Ezekiel 34:15–16). Jesus was saying that he was the one about whom Ezekiel prophesied. The Jews didn’t believe and thought Jesus was crazy.

Jesus is the door—Jesus also described himself as the door to the sheepfold (John 10:9). Later Jesus would make it plain that no one can go to heaven except through him (John 14:6). The door is the only way in. And, everyone who comes in through the door will be saved. Jesus is the only way to eternal life! We can’t work our way in, buy our way in, or sneak in. The Jews would not be able to make it in by following the law; they had to trust in Jesus.

Jesus is God—When Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, he was hinting at his deity. Some of the Jews thought he was crazy, but others wanted to hear more because of Jesus’ miracles. Finally the Jews gathered round him and asked Jesus directly if he was the Messiah. Jesus responded with the most severe judgment. First, Jesus said those gathered were not a part of his flock. That meant, if Jesus were the Messiah, those particular Jews would not go to heaven. Next, Jesus did something that really angered them. Not only did he not deny he was the Messiah, he claimed to be God! Jesus called God his Father and told them that he is one with the Father. That was enough for the Jews, who then picked up stones to kill Jesus. Yet Jesus did not shrink back. To make things clearer, he said that he was the Son of God, God was his Father and the Father was in him, and he was in the Father. At that point, when they tried to arrest Jesus, he escaped.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The Trinity

The “trinity” describes the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Though the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible, it is a word theologians have

adopted to describe the mystery found in the Godhead. Simply put, God is three separate persons in one God. Each of the persons is equally God. Our finite minds cannot comprehend how the three can be one God, and how each of the persons is all God. John records Jesus' words, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30), and "the Father is in me, and I am in the Father" (John 10:38). Statements like these have led to the adoption of the term "trinity" to describe our incomprehensible God. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus invoked the trinity when he told the disciples to baptize in the name of the "Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus includes all three of the persons of the Godhead in his command.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

John 10 is one of the clearest pre-cross explanations of the ministry of Jesus. The gospel is explained throughout the entire shepherd/sheep analogy. Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. There is no mistaking the gospel here. Perhaps the most beautiful verse in the entire chapter is verse 18, where Jesus demonstrates his incredible love for us all. Jesus said that his death is his willing choice for his sheep. The transfiguration showed that Jesus had not lost his awesome power. If he had wanted to escape the cross, he certainly had the power to do so. But he chose, instead, to lay aside his power and willingly give up his life for us.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 10:22–30 from the Scriptures or read story 104, "Jesus Claims to Be God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Guess the Voice

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ digital recorder

Record some of the members of your congregation, whom your class would recognize, reading the following verses from John 10. After they read the verse, have them pause for five seconds, give a greeting to the class, pause for an additional five seconds, then give their name. Use the following verses:

John 10:1–3

John 10: 4

John 10:5

John 10:14

John 10:16–18

John 10:27–28

All these verses talk about the sheep recognizing the voice of the shepherd. Keep score to see who can identify the most speakers. Then ask the children the following questions:

- **How can we hear the voice of the Shepherd today?**
(Jesus' words are recorded in the Bible for us to hear by reading his Word.)
- **How can we follow the voice of the Shepherd today?**
(We need to follow what the Scriptures teach. Of course, believing in the gospel, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, is the key.)

Ask the children to point out the gospel in this chapter.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

What Is the Most Significant Verse?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencils and paper
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Ask the class to read John 10:7–18 and decide which is the most significant verse and why. After giving them some time to complete their answers, ask them to share their thoughts with the class. There is no wrong answer; however, Jesus mentions laying down his life four times in this chapter in verses 11, 15, 17, and 18. Repetition is often a way to bring emphasis. But again, there is no wrong answer.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Good Shepherd

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, caring for his sheep. Have the class write the words of John 10:14 on their picture. Ask the class to tell you some of the blessings Jesus said he would give his sheep.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Play Out the Scene

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several costumes—flat sheets and towels and rope belts

- ✓ John 10:22–39 printed on card stock with the words and actions of the Jews highlighted—one for each student

Reenact John 10:22–39. The children will play the role of the Jews, you play the role of Jesus, and another helper can narrate the nonspeaking parts and cue the children.

Have a few volunteers dress up in the costumes and distribute the scripts. Have the children act out the scene by picking up pretend stones to throw at Jesus and then trying to arrest him, but have him slip out of the crowd with the Jews left wondering, “Where did he go.” Use this drama to help impress the story on the children.

For next week: For Object Lesson 1 you will need black, very overripe bananas.