

JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 10:22-33 & 37-39



The STORY

Read about Jesus' conflict with the Jews in John 10:22-33 and 37-39. These verses refer directly to the deity of Christ. You can skip verses 34-36 where Jesus speaks about Psalm 82:6 as the children will not follow His argument. Look for a picture Bible to accent the story or tell it with the felt board while you read the text.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did Jesus say that made the Jews upset? (Jesus said things which, if true, would make Him God: "I give eternal life," "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all," and "I and the Father are one.")
- Why did the Jews pick up stones to throw at Jesus? (The Jews thought that Jesus was only a man yet He was claiming to be God. Claiming to be God, or blasphemy, was a crime punishable by stoning.)
- What evidence did Jesus give to back up what He was saying? (Jesus said "...even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.")

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jews picking up stones to throw at Jesus. Engage the children by asking:

- Why were the Jews going to stone Jesus? (They thought Jesus was a mere man, but He claimed to be one with God, the Father.)
- What words did Jesus say that really upset them? (Jesus said, "I and the Father are one.")
- What happened? Did they stone Jesus? (No, it was God's plan for Jesus to be crucified. They tried to grab hold of Jesus but He slipped away. Jesus would not be captured until it was His time to go to the cross.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What animal did Jesus say his Followers were like? (Jesus said His followers were like sheep.)
- What does Jesus do for His sheep? (He speaks to them, He knows them, He gives them eternal life, and He protects them so that none are taken away.)
- What do the sheep do? (They listen for Jesus' voice and they follow Him.)
- What lessons can we learn from this? (We are the sheep that need to listen for Jesus and follow His voice. His voice, God's Word, is written down for us. If we follow Jesus we will receive the blessings He promised His sheep.)



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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in 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 verses 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 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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

