

IN THE
BEGINNING
WAS THE...
WORD
A STUDY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 7 – The Word is...THE SON WHO WAS SENT BY AND
REFLECTS THE FATHER

FACILITATOR'S Note

MAIN POINT THIS WEEK: Jesus was sent by God and reflects the very essence of the Father (3:17, 35–36; 5:19–26; 6:40; 8:35–36; 14:13; 17:1).

This week we will focus our attention on how God sent His Son into this world in order that His presence would be made known through Jesus. Jesus comes to glorify His Father and reflect the very essence of God, as He Himself is one with the Father. These concepts can be both confusing and encouraging. It is our role this week to help our class participants struggle through them while finding the hope within. Knowing the Jesus is the exact representation of God and reflects His nature is important for all who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Remember, this semester we hope to provide material that will provide knowledge (HEAD); then ask questions that will bring us understanding (HEART); and then motivate participants to go and live the Word in the world and demonstrate Godly wisdom (HANDS). Help them with that today.

HEAD → HEART → HANDS

As always, we would encourage you to begin preparing for each lesson by digging into the Word and specifically the text for each of the weeks. **This week the texts are: 3:17, 35-36; 5:19-26; 6:40; 8:35-36; 14:13; 17:1.** As you move through the Word, jot down any thoughts that come to you and particular passages that stand out and speak to you. We assure you that these will come into play as you facilitate this discussion. It is then that you should approach this lesson plan and use it (and others) only as a guide for the weeks to come. Your group is different than all the rest and so your lessons should be adapted accordingly.

PRAYER



Begin your time with a prayer asking God for the guidance of His Holy Spirit as you and your class seek to encounter Him through His Holy Word.

FOCUS

- Understand that Jesus was sent by God.
- Understand that Jesus reflects the very essence of God as He and the Father are one.
- Help our participants believe that Jesus is the exact representation of God the Father.

DISCUSSION STARTERS (OPTIONAL)

- Have you ever been told that you are just like your father or mother? How did it make you feel?
- How is it that we become so much like another person that makes others notice it? How does this relate to our relationship with God and Jesus?
- Is it possible to spend so much time with God and Jesus that we begin to look, feel, act like Him?

KNOWLEDGE HEAD

From the Gospel of John

- 3:17, 34-36
 - Key Points
 - One of John's favorite ways to identify Jesus is to refer to Him as the Son that God "sent". This was something that Jews would have picked up on easily as

there was a familiar concept in Jewish life of a messenger reflecting the sender himself.

- It is important to note with this concept that Jesus is not only the “sent one”, but He in turn sends His own disciples (20:21-22) out.
 - This implies a commission is given with a message to proclaim given by the sender and not original with the one sent.
- 3:17 speaks to the one who sends and the one who is being sent and the purpose for that sending.
- In verses 34-36, John emphasizes that the word of God is being given through the one He sent, Jesus. In Jesus, the Spirit is given “without measure”.
 - This means that there are no limits on Jesus and the word He proclaims. Whereas, the Spirit is given to each of us, but in measure.
 - This differentiates Jesus from us and emphasizes that He is God’s Son.
 - These verses also emphasize the fact that Jesus has ALL THINGS in His hands. Meaning He has supreme authority over all things.
 - The message Jesus gives, sent by God, teaches us that Jesus is the only way to have eternal life. This eternal life is lived not only in the future, but also in the present (the kingdom of God is already here, but not yet complete/fulfilled).
 - It is clear here (v. 36) that if one does not accept and believe in Jesus as the Son of God they will incur the full wrath of God at the final judgment.

○ Contemporary Application

- As the Father sent Jesus, so we are sent by Jesus to proclaim Him and His message. Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father, are we fulfilling the will of Jesus?
- How can Jesus be God, but also be sent by the Father and filled with the Spirit? Wouldn’t that mean He isn’t God?
 - NO, the fact that He has the Spirit without measure and ALL THINGS are in His hands indicates that He has supreme power and authority (qualities and characteristics only of God Himself).
 - The fact that the Father delegates this to the Son does not negate His deity, but emphasizes the different roles within the Trinity and how the three (Father, Son, Spirit) are fully God in the unity of a single divine being.
 - This speaks to (is an example of) the type of unity we are to have as the body of Christ. Though we all have different roles and are all gifted in and by the Spirit, we are all to function as one body according to God’s will and purpose. The diversity does not negate the unity!

• **5:19-26**

○ Key Points

- Vv. 17-18 demonstrate two truths:
 1. Jesus is equal to God
 2. The Father and Son have different roles and functions

- V. 19 demonstrates that Jesus is subject to the Father in everything He does, but maintains His equality with God as what He does is what the Father is doing. He is a mirror image of the working of the Father.
 - The fact that only Jesus can even see what the Father is doing in order to do what He is doing shows that He has an inside view of God that ONLY God could see. Confusing?
 - V. 20 highlights that God makes all that He is doing visible to His Son. No one else has that ability. Jesus can perceive God's will and purpose in every event in the world.
 - The greater works here include the miracles and Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (v. 21).
 - V. 22 shows us that Jesus is the Judge of the World. This ability is only a divine prerogative and here we see that God delegates that role to the Son. Still, only God can judge (e.g. Genesis 18:25; Judges 11:27).
 - In v. 23 and 24, we realize that Jesus is to be honored (worshipped) in the same way the Father is. Again, another way of saying Jesus is God. For God is a jealous God, a consuming fire. There shall be NO other gods before Him. So, either Jesus is God, or all of the Gospel of John (and the entire NT) should be discarded.
 - Vv. 24-29 continue to demonstrate the power and authority given to the Son by the Father. This power and authority can only come from God Himself. This shows us how the Trinity functions together, but also maintains unity.
 - Both Life and Judgment will come through the Son of God/Man!
 - Contemporary Application
 - Are these hard concepts? Explain.
 - How can we teach these truths to the world in a way that makes sense?
 - Is it possible to have unity amongst diversity? How?
- **6:39-40**
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knows the will of the One who sent Him. God deeply wants His children to return to Him and be saved from the judgment and wrath due the penalty of disobedience/sin.
 - The will of God is that everyone who returns to Him through the One He sent will rise again on the last day and enter eternal life with God. His plan from the beginning.
 - The ability to do these things is only a quality and characteristic of God.
 - Contemporary Application
 - This is a critical lesson that must be taught to ALL. Only those who look to and believe in Jesus, the Son of God will inherit eternal life with God. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
- **8:28-38**
 - Key Points
 - In v. 28, Jesus again speaks of His death and proclaims that His death and resurrection will demonstrate that He is the "I AM" (God) and that as the Son He

does and says only what the Father tells Him and by the authority that the Father has given Him.

- V. 29 highlights not only that God the Father sent His Son, but that the two are constantly (except on the cross) connected. He never did anything alone or devoid of the Father (except taking all our sin on the cross—"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").
- In vv. 31-32, Jesus explains to them that He is THE TRUTH (14:6). His truth displayed not only in His words, but also in His actions on the cross, are what set all who believe in Him free.
 - The Jews struggled with this as they say themselves as free. But they were bound to their sins and no earthly priest would ever be able to completely take away their sin. Only God can do that, and He does through His Son, Jesus.
 - ONLY the Son can set you free!
 - V. 37 and 38 are "butt-kickers". Here Jesus highlights that the Jews do not accept His word, nor do they accept Him. Therefore, they don't accept God the Father because they are listening to their true father, the Devil (vv. 39-47). Yeah, He tells them their father is the Devil. Bet that made Him some friends!

- Contemporary Application

- Jesus doesn't hold any punches here. Should we be firmer (more resolute) in our approach at times? Explain why and how.
- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus never felt disconnected from the Father until the cross and His death? WOW! He does truly love us!!!

- **14:8-14**

- Key Points

- This is a very powerful passage. Spend some time digesting it together.
- Philip still doesn't get it in v. 8. He has been in the presence of the Father through the Son, but still doesn't know it. Do we?
- Jesus responds to Philip in v. 9 by saying, "Have I been with you so long, and you still don't know me, Philip?" What? Philip asked to see the Father. Jesus responds with Himself. Yes, because in seeing Jesus, we see the Father as the two (three) are one.
 - If you see Son you see the Father. Is that true with us. If we see the disciples, shouldn't we see the Son and therefore the Father? Convicting, isn't it?
- Vv. 10-11 demonstrate the unity, yet diversity of the Father and Son. How do we know this?
 - Jesus says you know by the works that the Father and Son are one. In the same way, our works are a demonstration that the disciples and the Son are one.
- V. 13 states that whatever we ask in Jesus' name (for His glory) will be granted in order to glorify the Father. We don't receive because we don't ask. Realize, this isn't asking for things for us, but instead it is asking for the things of God to bring Him glory and honor (read James 4:1-10).

- So, if you ask God to bring you someone to share the Gospel to, do you not believe He will send them? The real problem is that we often don't ask. Why? Because we DO BELIEVE HE WILL!
 - Contemporary Application
 - How will people know that we are one with Jesus and He with us? What are signs/demonstrations of this?
 - Does giving one's life over to Jesus in word mean that they have truly given their life over to Him? Explain. How will we know our will is His and His will is ours?
- **17:1-5 (or the whole prayer!)**
 - Key Points
 - First, just read these verses and take them in. Maybe read them two or three times.
 - Second, these verses speak for themselves in light of the discussion we have had already. Instead of analyzing these verses, try something a little different. Have everyone take a piece of paper and write out the first five verses of chapter 17 but change them to be speaking to Jesus. Replace the occurrences of "Son" with their name and put their name in parentheses after the "I"s. This makes this prayer very personal. As Jesus reflects and is the exact representation of God (Hebrews 1:3), so we ought to reflect the Son in order to glorify the Father and demonstrate our unity with Him. Jesus prayer to the Father should be our prayer to the Son.
 - What was this experience like? Were you affirmed or convicted, or both? Explain.

UNDERSTANDING HEART

- By our study today, is it possible to say that Jesus was a good man who taught great morals, but was not the Son of God?
- It is important to leave this study knowing that Jesus is one with the Father and the Father is one with Him. Though they have a different role that does not cancel out their unity. Seeing Jesus means you see the Father.
- The real question is, when people see you, do they see Jesus?

WISDOM HANDS

- In what specific ways would you like to look like Jesus this week? List them out.
- Go this week and be the reflection of Jesus to those you interact with.

PRAYER



End your time together with a prayer. Ask God to help you to boldly share Jesus this week not only by what you say, but also by what you do.

CLASS OUTLINE

"...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31) The Gospel of John was written so that those who read its message may believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, THE CHRIST. The following outline holds the major themes expounded on in the Gospel of John in order that its readers may believe in Jesus and have eternal life. (Adapted from the "Key Themes" outline in the ESV Study Bible):

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (January 4)
2. THE WORD IS...
GOD (January 11)
 - a. Jesus is GOD
 - b. 1:1–2, 18; 5:17–18; 8:58–59; 10:30–33; 20:28
3. THE WORD IS...
BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD (January 18)
 - a. Jesus existed before the creation of all there is.
 - b. 1:1–2; 8:58; 17:5, 24
4. THE WORD IS...
OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING) (January 25)
 - a. Jesus has supernatural knowledge that only God can possess.
 - b. 1:48; 2:4, 19, 23–25; 3:14; 4:17–18; 6:51, 70; 8:28; 9:3; 10:15, 17–18; 11:4, 14; 12:24, 32; 13:10–11, 38; 21:18–19
5. THE WORD IS...
THE MESSIAH AND SON OF GOD (February 1)
 - a. Jesus is the promised Messiah and Son of God prophesied in Old Testament.
 - b. 1:36, 41, 49; 3:18; 4:25, 29; 5:25; 7:26, 27, 31, 41, 42; 9:22; 10:24, 36; 11:4, 27; 12:34; 19:7; 20:30–31
6. THE WORD IS...
THE "I AM" (February 8)
 - a. Jesus is the "I AM" from the Old Testament. He is Yahweh/Jehovah.
 - b. 4:26; 6:20, 35, 48, 51; 8:12, 18, 24, 28, 58; 9:5; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 13:19; 14:6; 15:1; 18:5–6 (cf. Ex. 3:14–15; Isa. 41:4; 43:10–13, 25; 45:18; 51:12; 52:6)
7. THE WORD IS...
THE SON WHO WAS SENT BY AND REFLECTS THE FATHER (February 15)
 - a. Jesus was sent by God and reflects the very essence of the Father.
 - b. 3:17, 35–36; 5:19–26; 6:40; 8:35–36; 14:13; 17:1
8. THE WORD IS...
THE FULFILLMENT OF JEWISH FESTIVALS/INSTITUTIONS (February 22)
 - a. Jesus fulfills the Jewish festivals and institutions found in the Law (even the temple itself).
 - b. 1:29, 36; 2:14–22, esp. v. 21; 4:23–24; 8:12; 9:5; 19:14
9. THE WORD IS...
THE GIVER OF ETERNAL LIFE (March 1)
 - a. Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe in Him.
 - b. 1:4; 3:15–16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 26, 39–40; 6:27, 33, 35, 40, 47–48, 51, 53–54, 68; 8:12; 10:10, 25, 28; 11:25; 12:25, 50; 14:6; 17:2–3; 20:31

10. THE WORD IS...

A MIRACLE WORKER (March 8)

- a. Jesus performs signs and wonders that demonstrate that He is the promised Messiah.
- b. 2:1–11, 13–22; 4:46–54; 5:1–15; 6:1–15; 9:1–41; 11:1–44

11. THE WORD IS...

TESTIFIED BY OTHERS TO BE THE MESSIAH (March 15)

- a. Witnesses testify that Jesus is the Messiah.
- b. 1:7–8, 15, 19, 32, 34; 3:11, 32–33; 4:39; 5:31–39; 8:14, 18; 10:25; 15:26–27; 18:37; 19:35; 21:24

12. THE WORD IS...

UNIFIED WITH FATHER AND SPIRIT IN THEIR WORK OF REVELATION AND REDEMPTION (March 22)

- a. Father, Son, and Spirit are united in their work.
- b. 14:17–18, 23, 26; 15:26; 20:21–22

13. THE WORD IS...

THE BASIS OF SALVATION (March 29)

- a. It is by Jesus' death that God brings His people salvation.
 - i. 1:29; 3:14–15; 6:51–58; 10:15; 11:50–52; 12:24; 15:13
- b. God is sovereign in salvation.
 - i. 3:21; 5:21; 6:37–45, 64–65; 10:16, 26–30; 15:16; 17:2, 6, 9

14. BELIEVERS MUST...

CONFESS AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH (April 12)

- a. Salvation is obtained by believing in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.
 - i. 1:12; 3:15, 16; 5:24; 6:29, 35; 8:24; 11:25–27, 42; 12:44; 17:8, 21; 20:31
- b. The benefits of salvation can be experienced here and now (in this evil age), but will be fully known when He returns.
 - i. 3:18, 36; 4:23; 5:24; 6:39–40; 10:10, 26–29; 11:25–26

15. BELIEVERS MUST...

CONTINUE JESUS' WORK AND MISSION (April 19)

- a. Believers are called upon to continue the work of the Savior in order that all men may know and be saved.
- b. 4:38; 15:16; 17:18; 20:21–22

16. CONCLUSION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (April 26)