

Jesus, What a Savior

Scope and Sequence



Jesus, What a Savior is a study for children on redemption. Children are sinners, and the consequences for their sin are eternal. This curriculum is designed to present the Gospel, not with "us" at the center of the story, but with the greatness and worth of God at the center. Throughout the lessons, an illustration using shiny, darkened and red hearts shows what we were created to do, the effects of sin on our hearts, and the absolute need for Christ to restore our hearts.

Lesson 1: God is the Most Special Person of All

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

God's true Word, the Bible, tells us who He is and what He is like. He alone can make us truly happy.

There is no better place to begin this study than with the Person of God and His amazing character. Children will see that the Bible is God's true Word, telling us who God is and what God is like. As they briefly study various attributes of God, they will see that He is perfect in every way. He is the one deserving of all glory and praise... He is the most special Person of all!

Lesson 2: God Created the World to Show How Special He Is

Memory Verse: Psalm 19:1

The overflow of God's greatness and worth is seen in the glory of His creation where we can feel, touch, hear and smell how special God is.

Why did God make everything? It was not because He was bored. Children will see that God delights in displaying His glory through the wondrous things He has made. The Bible tells us how special God is, but this lesson helps children understand that creation allows us to see, feel, touch, hear, and smell how special God is.

Lesson 3: God's Created People to Enjoy His Glory

Memory Verse: Psalm 16:11a

God created people in His image to show how special He is and He desires to have an intimate relationship with His people.

God created things to show how special He is. The same is true with His creation of humans, but there is something different about this creation—God created people in His own image. He did this to show how special He is. This lesson emphasizes that God desires to have an intimate relationship with the people He created, not because He is lonely, but because He is their Creator and their God.

Lesson 4: Adam and Eve Sin and Reject God

Memory Verse: Romans 1:21a

Adam and Eve sinned: they did not love God most of all.

Children will discover what happened when Adam and Eve failed to show how special God is and enjoy Him above all else. By their actions they told God, "You aren't as great as You say You are. You can't satisfy us." This was sin, and it forever affected their ability to do the very thing for which they were created—to enjoy God most of all.

Lesson 5: Sin Alienates Adam and Eve from God

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23a

God is perfect and hates sin which separates people from Him. He is right to punish sin with death.

Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God, and people cannot be truly happy when separated from God. God told them that sin would lead to death, and children will learn that God is right to punish sin with death.

Lesson 6: All People Are Born Sinners and Alienated from God *Memory Verse: Romans 3:23, 5:19a***All people are deserving of God's punishment of death (hell), but He is patient with sinners.**

Not only were Adam and Eve separated from God, but their sin affected all people. Since we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, we are all born sinful and already separated from God. Because of our sinful natures we all deserve God's punishment—death and hell. As the lesson looks at various biblical characters, children will see that though all of these people are sinners, God was patient with each of them.

Lesson 7: God Makes a Way for Sinners to Come to Him *Memory Verses: Hebrews 9:22b, 11:6a***In His love, God made a way to cover the sin of His people who come to Him in faith.**

In the last lesson, a problem was presented: All people are sinners and therefore separated from God. Not only this, but people are helpless to save themselves. But, there is good news to share with the children in this lesson. In His mercy, God made a way to cover the sin of His people. The provision of sacrifices is presented, but the sacrifice itself is not enough. As demonstrated by Cain and Abel, people must come to God by faith.

Lesson 8: God Punishes a Sinful World*Memory Verses: Psalm 1:6***God is patient with sinners and will always keep His promises.**

Since Adam and Eve every person is born sinful. God is grieved by the sin of mankind, but is patient with sinners. This lesson highlights two main components of God's faithfulness revealed in the flood: 1) God is faithful to punish sinners; and 2) God is faithful to those who place their trust in Him. Even though Noah was a sinner, God showed mercy to him because faith in God is pleasing to God.

Lesson 9: God Makes a Promise to Abraham*Memory Verses: Psalm 86:9***God desires to make a people for Himself and promises Abraham descendants from all nations.**

The story of Abraham emphasizes justification by faith alone. As the lesson walks through Abraham's life, the children will notice that God chooses Abraham to be His friend. God promises Abraham descendants from all nations, and God grants Abraham the faith to respond in belief to God's promise. Students will see in this lesson that it is through this promise that God is working to bring about a special people for Himself.

Lesson 10: The Ten Commandments Show Us God's Ways*Memory Verses: Romans 7:12***God desires to reveal His righteousness and His laws and commands are perfect, right and good.**

That the law was not meant to be used as a job description or as a way to earn favor with God. It was meant to show us the perfect ways of God. The law shows us our inability to measure up to the perfect righteousness that God demands. God expects us to obey His law, but we are incapable of doing so.

Lesson 11: The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin*Memory Verse: Romans 3:20b***Sinful people are not able to obey God's commands as He expects them to. The law shows us that we are helpless in our sin and must trust God.**

This lesson is the flip-side of the previous lesson. Whereas the emphasis of Lesson 10 was to show that God is righteous and He gave us His law to show us what He demands, Lesson 11 is designed to focus on the inability of the sinner to ever fully obey these commands. God expects that people should obey His commands. The law shows us that, just like the Israelites in the wilderness, we are helpless to attain our own righteousness through the law and must trust God.

Lesson 12: God Promises to Remove the Sin of His People*Memory Verses: Ezekiel 36:26a*

People are weak and helpless to save themselves, but God desires to remove the sin and guilt of His people so they can enjoy Him forever.

People are weak and helpless to save themselves, which leaves them weighed down by the guilt of sin. God did not leave people there though; He made a way so that we can enjoy Him as we were created to do. Children will see that God gifted David with many great talents and abilities, and yet David was a sinner. David knew that he was a sinner and that all of his talents would not fix his sin problem. Just like David, we are all sinners unable to do what is required of us. But God had a promise for David, and for all of us. He promised to save His people and give them a new heart.

Lesson 13: Jesus the Savior is Born*Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21*

God loves His people and desires to save them from their sin. He was faithful to send Jesus as the promised Savior.

The Christmas story shows the faithfulness of God. In the Old Testament, God promised to save a people, and give them new hearts. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. The Christmas story is a great example of how God reveals His greatness to and through humble people. Mary was no one special in her time, and no one expected the Savior of the world to come as a tiny baby, but God fulfilled His promise in this way.

Lesson 14: Jesus is the Most Special Person of All*Memory Verses: John 1:1, 14a*

Jesus, the promised Savior, is fully God and became the Word of God in fully human form.

Building off what was learned in Lesson 1 about the attributes of God, children will see that Jesus was not just a baby, He was and is the Word of God in human form. Jesus, the promised Savior, was a baby; just like all of us were, but He was also very different—He was God. This is a hard concept to understand, but nevertheless it is true.

Lesson 15: Jesus Understands Sinners*Memory Verses: Hebrews 2:18*

Because Jesus shared in our humanity, He was tempted in every way and is able to sympathize with sinners. But, Jesus is God; He never yielded to temptation.

Jesus was like the rest of us in many ways. He shared in our humanity, and He is able to sympathize with sinners because He was tempted to sin Himself. Yet, Jesus had one big difference from the rest of us, He did not sin. His heart was not tainted by sin. This is good news for sinners. It means that we have a King who knows what life is like for us, but whose perfect obedience makes Him able to save sinners.

Lesson 16: Jesus Proclaims His Good News to Sinners*Memory Verse: Luke 4:18a*

God sent Jesus to proclaim His good news and to save sinners.

After Jesus returned from His experience in the wilderness, the Bible says that He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He was now ready to begin the true mission for which He was sent: To be the promised Savior. God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus proclaimed good news to sinners—news about salvation from their sin.

Lesson 17: Jesus Teaches Sinners*Memory Verse: John 8:31b*

Jesus reveals the truth about God through words, pictures and actions to give understanding to sinners. Jesus' friends are through who respond in faith that is demonstrated through obedience.

Jesus began proclaiming His message of salvation. His message was good news, but it was not always understood by sinners. In everything that Jesus said and did, He revealed the greatness and worth of God. In His desire to make God known He did not just speak in scholarly terms, but used stories and illustrations that everyone could understand, so that many would respond in faith. In this lesson, children will learn how Jesus used *The Parable of the Sower* to explain that His friends are those who respond in faith and obedience.

Lesson 18: Jesus Call Sinners*Memory Verse: Luke 5:32*

Jesus is all powerful and displays the greatness and worth of God. He came to save helpless sinners and chooses them to be His friends.

As Jesus began His special mission to save sinners, He befriended a group of men to love and disciple. He did not need them because of their gifts and abilities. Rather, they were ordinary men of no worldly significance or impressive ability, but they all shared one common characteristic—they were all sinners. They were chosen not as “helpers” but as a means by which Jesus would display the greatness and worth of God by calling and saving sinners.

Lesson 19: Jesus Heals Sinners*Memory Verse: John 10:10b*

Jesus displays the power of God and has compassion on helpless sinners. Jesus knows our greatest need for forgiveness of sin only comes through trusting in Him.

Jesus was not just a great moral teacher—He was God and was able to display the power of God. The story of Jesus healing the paralytic shows us this great power to heal, but Jesus knew that the paralytic had a much greater need than being able to walk. This man needed to be saved from his sin and separation from God. This lesson teaches children that Jesus knows our real need—forgiveness from sin—and He has the power to meet that need. It is through trusting in Jesus that our sins are forgiven.

Lesson 20: Jesus Spends Time with Sinners*Memory Verses: Luke 5:31-32*

Jesus came to save even the worst of sinners. No one is righteous or can be saved by their own merits.

Jesus spent time with a wide variety of people during His earthly ministry. Some people (the Pharisees) were not always pleased with those whom Jesus chose as friends. This lesson demonstrates that Jesus called even the most offensive sinners. No one is righteous, and people cannot be saved by their own merits.

Lesson 21: Jesus Changes Sinners*Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Jesus is more powerful than Satan and came to free people from the bondage of sin.

This lesson begins with the illustration of a caterpillar and butterfly, which demonstrates that sinners do not need a slight tweak to their hearts, but instead need a dramatic transformation. Children will learn that like the demon-possessed man, sinners are held in bondage to the power of sin and are helpless to free themselves. But God is more powerful than Satan. He came to free people from the bondage of sin and is able to transform a sinner’s heart.

Lesson 22: Jesus Welcomes All Kinds of Sinners*Memory Verses: Psalm 67:3*

Jesus proclaims His message to all people and gives salvation through faith to Gentiles as well.

In the Old Testament, God primarily revealed Himself to Israel, but the Messiah was not just for the people of Israel. The good news of salvation is for all nations. The story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman shows us that God grants faith to Gentiles as well as Jews, but most importantly, it demonstrates that faith in God brings about salvation for a sinner.

Lesson 23: Jesus Calms Fearful Sinners*Memory Verses: John 14:1*

Jesus understands our weaknesses and has compassion on us. Every situation is under Jesus' control because He is God.

This lesson uses the examples of Jesus’ power in calming a storm and walking on water to demonstrate that Jesus is God, and nothing is too hard for Him. Jesus understands our weaknesses—He knows we are fearful, and He has compassion on us. Jesus wants sinners to trust Him in all things, including salvation from the righteous judgment of God for our sin.

Lesson 24: Jesus Satisfies Sinners*Memory Verse: John 6:35a***Fallen man has both physical and spiritual needs. Jesus is God and provides for these needs.**

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 demonstrates the power of Jesus. However, emphasis is placed on the fact that Jesus does more than merely meet our physical needs of hunger (even in miraculous ways), but He is the one who satisfies our spiritual hunger. It is the spiritual need that He came to fulfill.

Lesson 25: Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners*Memory Verses: Mark 10:14b***Jesus shows the love of His Father. All people, children and adults, need Jesus.**

Jesus is happy with childlike faith. All people, children and adults, need Jesus, and we should depend on him for our every need, just like a child. God is a heavenly Father who pours out His love and goodness on undeserving sinners. He does not need anything from us, and therefore He is free to give all things to His children. Jesus wants us to be like children who, joyfully and without question, are totally dependent on Him.

Lesson 26: Jesus Gives Rest to Weary Sinners*Memory Verses: Matthew 11:28***God is grieved by evil and suffering.**

As earlier lessons have revealed, the Scriptures show that God desires His perfect law to be loved and obeyed. But sinful hearts are not able to fulfill all of the requirements of the law. This lesson shows that Jesus came to fulfill the law for sinners so that they could be saved. Jesus took the burden on Himself, to complete for sinners what they were unable to do themselves, thereby giving sinners who trust in Him rest for their souls.

Lesson 27: Jesus Seeks for Lost Sinners*Memory Verse: Luke 19:10***Jesus is like a shepherd and people are like lost sheep. He delights in saving sinners.**

The parable of the shepherd and lost sheep illustrates that Jesus is like a loving shepherd and people are like lost sheep. Not only does Jesus rescue helpless sinners, but He delights in saving them. It is He who comes seeking after us, not the other way around.

Lesson 28: Jesus is Kind to Undeserving Sinners*Memory Verses: John 3:17***Jesus is righteous and has the right to condemn sinners, but He is kind and merciful to those sinners whom He chooses.**

The story of the woman caught in adultery is used to demonstrate to students that all people are sinners and deserve condemnation. Only Jesus is righteous, and only Jesus has the right to condemn a sinner. This lesson explains that even this woman, who had been caught doing something bad, was able to be saved by the mercy of Jesus.

Lesson 29: Jesus Brings Joy to Unhappy Sinners*Memory Verse: Psalm 92:4***Jesus displays the greatness of God in all He does and He has power over death. Praise and worship express the true happiness we find in Jesus.**

Through the story of Lazarus' death, children will discover that there is one who conquers death. Jesus demonstrates that He is the most special of all—He is God—and He holds power over death. Jesus did not just raise Lazarus from the dead, but He came to save His people from eternal death and condemnation in order that they might experience the greatest joy of all—eternal life with Him.

Lesson 30: Jesus Serves Sinners*Memory Verse: Matthew 20:28***Even though Jesus is the most important person of all, He became a humble servant.**

Jesus is God, He is all powerful, and all things belong to Him. Yet in this lesson, children are presented with Jesus who willingly took on the role of a servant, which would eventually cost Him his life. Jesus came to do the hardest job of all—bear the terrible wrath of God for helpless, condemned sinners.

Lesson 31: Jesus Loves Sinners*Memory Verse: John 15:13***Jesus freely chooses to love unworthy sinners and calls them to be His friends.**

Through the majority of this curriculum, students have been looking at the life of Jesus. But all of His teaching and actions were leading up to one ultimate goal: To display the glory of God in an obedient Son who loves sinners, just as His Father does, and who freely chooses to pour out on them the wonderful gift of His love. Though these sinners are unworthy, Jesus shows sinners the depths of His great love as He call them to be His friends.

Lesson 32: Jesus is Patient with Sinners*Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10***Jesus understands the hearts of sinners are weak and afraid.**

After the conversation that Jesus had with His disciples during the Last Supper, one would think that the disciples would have been overwhelmed by the words of love and assurance that Jesus had expressed. Yet Jesus made the announcement that they would all fall away. It was shocking to Peter. But Jesus knows the human heart is sinful, weak, afraid, and prone to wander in its affections. Unlike us, Jesus never wanders in His affections. Jesus did not abandon His mission because of His friends' unfaithfulness.

Lesson 33: Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners*Memory Verse: Romans 5:8***Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God and is sovereign over the actions of all people. He was obedient to His Father and willingly gave up His life for sinful people.**

All of the lessons in *Jesus, What a Savior!* build to this point: The means by which God will make a way of salvation for sinners. This lesson aims to show students that every moment leading to Jesus' death—the trial, the beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds—were all part of God's glorious plan. Jesus said "Yes" to the will of the Father in order to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners.

Lesson 34: Jesus Takes Away the Sin of His Friends*Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:24a***Righteous Jesus willingly received the wrath of God on behalf of His sinful friends.**

This lesson follows up on the story of the crucifixion by taking time to clearly communicate the theology of what happened on Good Friday. Through the review of past lessons and various Scripture passages, this lesson walks children, step-by-step, through the Gospel message.

Lesson 35: Jesus Gives New Life to His Friends*Memory Verse: John 11:25***Jesus satisfied God's righteousness when He paid the full penalty for sin. His resurrection is proof that He is all powerful and victorious even over sin and death.**

The last two lessons taught children that Jesus paid the full penalty for sin, but the story does not end with Jesus' death. God's wrath was satisfied and Jesus is all-powerful even over sin and death. Jesus rose from the dead as proof of His victory and makes His friends right with God. Jesus' resurrection is the proof that Jesus had truly finished the job He had come to do.

Lesson 36: Jesus' Promise for His Friends—Joy Forever*Memory Verse: John 14:2***Jesus has gone to prepare the special reward of heaven which is a real place where Jesus' friends will enjoy Him forever. Jesus keeps all of His promises.**

This lesson is designed to aim children's focus on the wonderful promise that Jesus has prepared eternal joy in Heaven for His friends who love and trust Him. Children will discover many of the wonderful things that believers can look forward to in Heaven, including beauty, happiness, and peace. But the best part of heaven is being with the most special Person of all—our friend Jesus!

Lesson 37: Jesus' Friends Love Him Most of All*Memory Verse: Mark 12:30***Jesus saves all those who believe in Him alone for salvation and love Him most of all.**

So far in the study, children have learned that people who believe in Jesus know that they are helpless sinners, and that only Jesus can help them. This lesson teaches children that Jesus' friends also love God above all else. Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. The aim of this lesson is to help children understand that true belief will result in loving Jesus more than anything or anyone else, and having Him alone as our priceless treasure.

Lesson 38: Jesus' Friends Obey Him*Memory Verse: John 14:15***Jesus gives His friends, who desire to obey Him, the Holy Spirit to help them obey God's commands.**

As was discussed earlier in the curriculum, God's commands are holy, righteous, and good. God is deserving of our obedience, but we cannot be perfect law keepers. This lesson discusses the new commandments Jesus gave His friends—to love God most and to love others as themselves. Students will learn that obedience to Christ is not optional. True faith in Jesus will be evidenced by true obedience to Jesus, and it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to succeed in this.

Lesson 39: Only Jesus!*Memory Verse: John 14:6***Everyone is a helpless sinner and deserves God's wrath. Jesus calls sinners to put their faith in Him for Salvation. He is the most special person of all.**

The story of the wise and foolish builders encourages children to set their hope on the firm rock of Christ alone. People are tempted to place their hope in good works (e.g., being good, being kind, etc.), but these things will fail in times of trouble. Just as the foolish man's house collapsed in the storm, so will a faith built on works.

Lesson 40: Jesus Invites You to Receive Him*Memory Verses: John 1:12***Jesus desires to save sinners so that they may enjoy Him forever. All people must respond to Jesus—either in belief or unbelief. Jesus invites you to trust in Him.**

The final lesson asks children to place their faith in the truth they have heard over the course of the curriculum. It emphasizes that receiving Jesus means not only receiving His saving grace, but also His daily lordship over their lives. True belief puts Jesus at the center of all things. Not all people will trust Jesus, but all will be held accountable for their unbelief.

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