

Jesus, part 1

Introduction

Checklist:

- Copy of “Bible Intro to Jesus” for each person (see below).
- A copy of the events from Jesus’ life, for each group, printed on card stock and cut out.

Famous People

Ask:

- Who are some of the most popular actors or sports stars, now-a-days?
- Who are some of the most famous people in history?

Say: Over the next several weeks, we are going to look at the life of one of the most famous people in history, Jesus...

Where in the Bible can we learn about Jesus?

Ask: Where, in the Bible, should someone look to learn about Jesus?

Be sure teens understand:

- The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are a great place to look because they share about who Jesus is and important things He did and taught.
- But, we can also learn about Jesus in other parts of the Bible...
- Other New Testament books teach some more about who He is, what He did and what He taught.
- And, the Old Testament points forward to the coming Messiah, Jesus...
- For instance, In Luke 24:44, Jesus said: “everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Segue

Say:

- Over the next several weeks, we’ll be learning some important things the Bible teaches about Jesus.
- Right now, let’s do a brief introduction about Jesus with some verses from the Gospels...

Bible Intro to Jesus

Do:

- Give each person a Bible Intro to Jesus handout and read over the instructions together.
- Then get teens into groups of 2-4 and assign each group 1 passage from the handout. (If there are a small number of teens, not all of the verses need to be covered. If there are a larger number of teens, then more than one group can do the same passage.)
- Give groups 5-10 minutes to read their verses and write their notes.
- Then bring groups back together and have groups take turns reading their verses and sharing. Any passages not covered by a group can be covered by the whole class.

Ask: What are some new, surprising, or important things you saw about Jesus in these verses we've looked at today? (Why are they important?)

Outline from Jesus' Life

Say: Let's see how quickly we can put together a brief outline from Jesus' life...

Do:

- Using the same groups... Give each group the set of events from Jesus' life (printed on cardstock and cut out ahead of time). And, on "go" have the groups race to see which group can get the events in the right order within one minute.
- After the minute is up, read off this correct order and see how many groups got it right...
 1. Jesus' birth foretold
 2. Jesus' birth
 3. Jesus at the temple at age twelve
 4. Jesus is baptized
 5. Temptation in the wilderness
 6. Jesus' teaching and ministry with the twelve disciples
 7. The last supper
 8. Jesus' crucifixion
 9. Jesus' resurrection
 10. Jesus gives His disciples the commission to make disciples of all nations

Say: This is basically the outline we are going to follow over the next several weeks.

Get to know each other in a minute

Do:

- Have everyone pair up with one person from their same groups. Tell them to try to get to know each other as well as they can in one minute, by asking them questions - but not any embarrassing questions!...
- Afterward, have a couple volunteers share some things they learned about the person in their group.

Ask:

- How easy was it to learn a lot about the other person in one minute?
- Does anyone know anyone in this room really well? Why?

Getting to know Jesus

Say:

- Just like you can't get to know someone really well in just one minute, it takes time to get to know Jesus better too!
- I want to encourage those who already trust Him as their Savior and Lord to continue to get to know about Him and grow in your relationship with Him by reading the Bible and spending time with Him in prayer.
- And, show love to Him by obeying how He says to live.
- In John 14:21 Jesus said if someone loved Him they would keep His commands.

- Maybe today, you realize better who Jesus is and that you need to begin a relationship with Him and trust Him as your Savior and Lord.
- If so, do that now!
- Trust Jesus to forgive you of your sin and trust His death to pay for the punishment you deserve of separation from God in hell.
- From the Bible, we see that if we trust Him to pay for our sin by His death on the cross, believe that He rose again, and confess Him as Lord - we will be saved from sin and receive eternal life with Jesus.
- If you have any questions about that, talk to me or another Christian you know and trust!

Closing Prayer

References:

Matthew Henry, comment on John 14:21, via

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Jhn/Jhn_014.cfm?a=1011021

RC Sproul, comment on John 14:21, St Andrew's Expository Commentary: John (Reformation Trust, 2009).

All Scriptures quoted above are from the English Standard Version, unless noted otherwise.

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Bible Intro to Jesus

To Do...

Have someone read your group's verses aloud to your group. Discuss together what the verses teach about Jesus and write a brief summary.

Verses...

1. John 1:1-3, 14

2. Luke 2:41-52

3. Matthew 14:14-21

4. Mark 4:35-41

5. John 14:1-7

Jesus' birth foretold

Jesus' birth

Jesus at the temple at age twelve

Jesus is baptized

Temptation in the wilderness

Jesus' teaching and ministry with the twelve disciples

The last supper

Jesus' crucifixion

Jesus' resurrection

Jesus gives His disciples the commission to make disciples of all nations