

Lesson 1

Jesus, God's Remedy for Sin

Before Class

Bible Lesson Text—Mark 2:1-12; 3:1-6; John 5:30-39; 8:31—9:41

Lesson Aims

1. To prepare students to study the Book of Acts by reviewing the life of Jesus.
2. To establish the cultural and historical setting in which Jesus lived.
3. To teach students that sin is an issue each of them must face, for “all have sinned.”
4. To teach that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the only way to salvation.

Inspiration for the Teacher

Those of us who have been Christians for many years may have forgotten how hopeless we felt when the Holy Spirit first began to show us how sinful we were—or how impossible it seemed that we could ever be worthy of God's love. For some of your young students, these feelings of unworthiness and despair may be daily companions.

We did not remain without hope, though, and neither must our students. God has condescended to enter our world and make a way of escape for us—though the details of that condescension seem almost too impossible to be true.

Gather the Supplies You Will Need

- Photocopied Optional Worksheet for each student from page 83 if you decide to use it
- Map of the Middle East for introducing the setting of this course
- If you choose to use Optional Lesson Introduction # 2, you will need a smudged hand mirror, paper towels, and two spray bottles labelled “glass cleaner.” Fill one bottle with water and vegetable oil. Fill the other with actual glass cleaner. Make sure you know which is which!

When Heaven's Light Bent Low

Immortality dies

As Eternity lies

Helpless in mother's arms;

Infinity trapped

By Majesty wrapped

In humble infant garb.

The Creator is born;

From Father's arms torn

While donning human skin,

With Radiance veiled

By humanity, frail;

Diminished by our sin.

Could man comprehend

How far God descended to

Enter this vale of woe,

He would sing unrestrained

For the life he regained

When Heaven's Light bent low.

—Becky McGurrian

Teaching Lesson 1

Welcome Your Pupils

As the students enter the room, welcome them warmly. Establish firm but friendly control of the class from the start. Explain the schedule and your rules.

Praise and Worship God

Pray with your students.

Introduce the Student Workbook and the Course

Hand each student a workbook. Tell them this workbook contains lessons taken from the first fourteen chapters of Acts. If they are not familiar with the Bible, show them the Acts of the Apostles in your Bible.

Show the students a map of the Middle East. Tell them that this is where the events described in this course took place.

- (v. 12) *How did the people respond to this miracle?*
- Read Mark 3:1-6. Not everyone believed that Jesus was God's Son and the promised Saviour. Many Pharisees hated Him and planned to kill Him.
 - *How did the Pharisees find fault when Jesus healed the man's withered hand?*
- Read John 5:30-39. Jesus openly declared who He was and explained His purpose for coming to earth. This passage was His reply to the Jews who wanted to kill Him because He said that God was His Father.
 - (v. 30) *Whose will did Jesus do?*
 - (v. 34) *What was Jesus' purpose for saying these things?*
- Read John 8:31—John 9:41.
 - (8:31-36) *What did Jesus mean when He said that the truth would make people free?*
 - (9:3) *What reason did Jesus give for the man's blindness?*
 - (9:30-33) *How did the man explain the miracle of his healing?*
 - (9:41) *Why did Jesus tell the Pharisees they were blind?*
- Briefly recount Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. Tell students that the rest of the lessons in this book tell the story of what happened to believers after Jesus had finished the work God had sent Him to do.

Workbook Activities

What the Bible Says

Explain the context of this verse from the last part of John 6. Many of the Jews argued about who Jesus really was. When Jesus told them things they didn't want to hear, many turned away from Him. (John 6:66.)

Read John 6:67-69 and ask the students who said the words of verse 69. (*Peter.*) To whom was he speaking? (*Jesus.*) Have the students do the exercises on page 3.

Lesson 1

Envy and hatred.

When Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath day, the Pharisees investigated. They tried to convince the blind man that Jesus was a sinner, but he disagreed. "It is unheard of for a man to cure the eyes of someone born blind," he said. "If this man weren't from God, He wouldn't be able to do it." That made the Pharisees angry.

The religious leaders envied Jesus because so many people believed Him. When Jesus brought a dead man back to life, the leaders said, "If we don't do something, everyone will believe in Him." They watched for a chance to kill Him. Jesus knew His death was part of God's plan. He didn't try to fight back when He was arrested by the jealous Jews who hated Him.

Death—Life!

The Jewish leaders gave Jesus a quick trial and persuaded the Roman governor Pilate to sentence Him to death. The Son of God, who loved all people, was whipped and mistreated. He was nailed to a Roman cross, where He died.

Jesus' eleven faithful disciples grieved for three days until Jesus proved His power over death and came back to life. He will never die again, and those who believe in Him will live forever too.

The following stories come from the book of the New Testament called The Acts of the Apostles. They tell the exciting story of what happened to God's people after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Disciples

Twelve men Jesus chose to follow Him and hear His teachings. One disciple betrayed Him to soldiers who arrested and killed Him.

What the Bible Says

We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. John 6:69

Jesus, the God-Man

1. The verse gives two names for Jesus. Underline them.


Choose the best description for each of these names.


2. Jesus was: *Christ*
 - A. The promised king of the Jews
 - B. A title given to all Jewish priests

Jesus was: *The Son of the living God*

- A. A very good religious person
- B. The literal Son of God who came to earth from Heaven

It's hard to explain or imagine, but Jesus is at the same time both *fully human* and *fully God*. No one else has been or ever will be such a God-man. For this reason, we call Him the only Son of God.

 Discuss the miracle of Christ being fully human and fully God at the same time.


 Why didn't Jesus' miracles convince the Pharisees that He was God's Son?


Remember This?

Allow time for the students to do the exercise on their own. Or do it together as a class.

When the exercise is completed, have the students take turns reading the complete sentences as a summary of the lesson facts.

Also discuss the fact that although Jesus' life as a man is past, He is still alive in Heaven with God, and the work He did on earth still saves us.

 What would have been appropriate ways to relate to the Son of God when He was on the earth?

 How do you treat Jesus today?

Where in the World Did It Happen?

If you haven't already done so, show the students a map of the Middle East and show them Palestine (present-day Israel), where

Jesus lived as a man. Then explain that during Jesus' time on earth, the Roman Empire had swallowed up all the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. At one time the Jews had claimed Palestine as their own, but by the time Jesus was born, they had lost their right to govern themselves. Most of the Jews hated the pagan Romans and wanted to be free of Roman power. They hoped that the Messiah God had promised would help them destroy their enemies and give them back their historical lands.

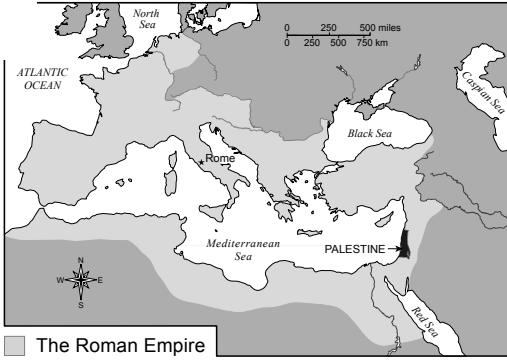
Lesson 1

Remember This?

Match the phrases on the left with the correct endings on the right. When you are finished, the letters in the blanks will reveal a fact about Jesus, the Messiah.

<p><u> </u> <u>J</u> Jewish Scriptures foretold the coming</p> <p><u> </u> <u>E</u> God planned a way for us to be</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> Jesus told a paralyzed man,</p> <p><u> </u> <u>U</u> The Jewish religious leaders believed</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> The Roman Empire</p> <p><u> </u> <u>I</u> The Jews hated the Romans because</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> Jesus' miracles and deeds</p> <p><u> </u> <u>A</u> Those who follow Jesus will know</p> <p><u> </u> <u>L</u> The man who was cured of blindness</p> <p><u> </u> <u>I</u> When jealous Jews arrested Him,</p> <p><u> </u> <u>V</u> The Son of God died</p> <p><u> </u> <u>E</u> Three days later, Jesus</p>	<p><u> </u> <u>U</u> – it was wrong to heal on the Sabbath.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>J</u> – of God's Son as a human being to earth.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> – "Your sins are forgiven."</p> <p><u> </u> <u>E</u> – forgiven and have a relationship with Him.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> – had taken over the Jewish nation.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>I</u> – the Romans did not honor their religion.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>S</u> – proved that God His Father had sent Him.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>A</u> – the truth, and it will set them free.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>E</u> – rose from the dead.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>L</u> – knew Jesus' power came from God.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>V</u> – on a Roman cross.</p> <p><u> </u> <u>I</u> – Jesus did not fight back.</p>
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Where in the World Did It Happen?



When Jesus came, He lived in Palestine, a small region in the Middle East. The Roman Empire controlled Palestine at that time. Today it is the site of the country of Israel. Arabs and Jews live there.

What body of water lies to the west of Palestine? The Mediterranean Sea.

Was the Jewish nation a small or large piece of the Roman Empire? small

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Application Exercise

Am I a Sinner?

Assist the students in filling in the blanks. Then discuss with them how human sins and problems separate us from God and His holiness.

Many people think that if they live reasonably good lives, God will surely accept them. But the Bible says that all of us fail to be good enough by God’s standards. Because of our sins, we deserve punishment. Jesus came to save us from our own meanness and inability to please God. He gives us power to have victory over our sinful habits and reactions (Titus 3:4-7).



Which counts the most—our inside attitudes or our outside actions? Why?

Lesson 1

Am I a Sinner?

No matter how hard we try to be good, we still find ourselves getting angry, jealous, proud, and sometimes mean. This is because, deep down inside, we are sinful. We were all born this way.

Choose words from the word box to fill in the blanks.

ANGRY DREADS FOREVER HATES PRIDE

What it looks like outside

1. Aleah is so sweet. She’s always smiling.
2. Paul seems so contented all the time.
3. “Oh, it was nothing,” Jerardo says as he receives a compliment.
4. Luanne does a nice job of cleaning her room.
5. Marcy doesn’t complain about waiting on the bus.

Deep inside

Aleah ^{1 2 3 4 5}H A T E S having to share a locker with Britney.

Paul ^{6 7 8 9 10}D R E A D S another one of his mother’s broccoli casseroles.

Jerardo’s heart swells with ^{11 12 13}P R I D E when he thinks about the great job he’s done.

Luanne thinks ^{14 15 16 17}A N G R Y thoughts about her mom as she makes her bed.

To Marcy it seems like ^{18 19 20 21 22 23}F O R E V E R until the late bus arrives.

What does the Bible say about our sinful nature? Place the numbered letters from above on the correct blanks below.

^{18 23 8 1 14 22 7 5 12 15 4 9 2 13 21}
 F O R A L L H A V E S I N N E D , A N D C O M E
^{10 20 3 4 23 17 16 13}
 S H O R T O F T H E G L O R Y O F G O D . Romans 3:23

* For more Lesson 1 activities, turn to pages 42 and 43.

This is the end of the basic lesson.

- If you are teaching a five-day Bible school or have limited time for extras, omit the extra activities suggested at the bottom of page 5 in the student workbook.
- Page 9 in this manual lists additional, non-workbook activities.

Extra Activity 1

Page 42

Who Jesus Is

Some students may need help to unscramble the names for Jesus.

Give assistance in matching the names to the descriptions of Jesus. Some of them are difficult. Give credit for any reasonable answers.

You may wish to work the exercise together as a class, taking time to enlarge on the various aspects of who Jesus is.

If students are interested, you might like to find verses in the Bible where the names in this lesson are found. Point out that some of them are names that Jesus called Himself, while others were given to Him in prophecy.

Saviour—Luke 2:11

The Word—John 1:1


The Light of the World—John 8:12


The Bread of life—John 6:35

Wonderful—Isaiah 9:6

The Prince of Peace—Isaiah 9:6

The Way, the Truth, and the Life—John 14:6

 Which of these descriptions do you like the best?

 Which description doesn’t make sense to you?

Lesson 1, Extra Activity 1

Who Jesus Is

Jesus is both the chosen Christ (the Messiah) and the literal Son of God. But He is even more than that!

The Bible uses the words on the left below to describe Jesus. Unscramble them. Then write each number beside the best definition on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u> </u>
ravioSu
Saviour | <u> 4 </u> He is food for our souls, just like bread is food for our bodies. |
| 2. <u> </u>
Teh droW
The Word | <u> 1 </u> He saves people from sin and Hell. |
| 3. <u> </u>
heT hiLtg fo teh rodIW
The Light of the World | <u> 3 </u> He brings light into the darkened hearts of people. |
| 4. <u> </u>
draBe fo fLie
Bread of Life | <u> 6 </u> He is the Son of the King of the universe who came to restore peace between God and us. |
| 5. <u> </u>
erondluWf
Wonderful | <u> 2 </u> He is God’s message to men. |
| 6. <u> </u>
Pincer fo caPee
Prince of Peace | <u> 8 </u> Everything that He says and does is absolutely true . |
| 7. <u> </u>
yaW
Way | <u> 5 </u> He is the incredible Creator and God. |
| 8. <u> </u>
hutTr
Truth | <u> 9 </u> He gives sinful mankind a chance to be born again to a new, spiritual life . |
| 9. <u> </u>
efiL
Life | <u> 7 </u> He is the only way for sinful mankind to get right with God. |

About God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

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Extra Activity 2

Page 43

Why Jesus Came

When the exercise is completed and the verse is revealed, tell the students that the Apostle Paul wrote these words to his young fellow minister Timothy.

Before Paul began to follow Jesus' way, he was an arrogant, hypocritical, religious persecutor of Christians. (Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1, 2.) He thought he lived a good life and obeyed the Jewish Scriptures. But like everyone else, he had to repent of his sinfulness before he could find salvation in Jesus.

This former persecutor of innocent people became a powerful witness, missionary, and writer for God. But Paul always admitted that he was merely a sinner in need of Christ's work of salvation.

Lesson 1, Extra Activity 2

Why Jesus Came

C H R I S T J E S U S C A M E I N T O T H E
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
W O R L D T O S A V E S I N N E R S ; O F W H O M
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
I A M C H I E F. 1 Timothy 1:15
 37 38 39 40 41 42

- If the Jewish Scriptures foretold the angels coming to earth, put an **L** in blanks **14, 29, and 30**.
If the Jewish Scriptures foretold God's Son coming to earth, put an **N** in blanks **14, 29, and 30**.
- If mankind has been obedient to God since the Garden of Eden, put **S** in blanks **1, 10, and 39**.
If mankind has disobeyed God since the Garden of Eden, put **C** in blanks **1, 10, and 39**.
- If God planned a way for us to have our sins forgiven, put **R** in blanks **3, 21, and 32**.
If God planned a way for us to get back to the Garden of Eden, put **E** in blanks **3, 21, and 32**.
- If the Romans were the kindest people who ever lived, put **R** in blanks **2, 18, 35, and 40**.
If Jesus was the kindest Man who ever lived, put **H** in blanks **2, 18, 35, and 40**.
- If Jesus forgives men's sins, put **T** in blanks **6, 15, 17, 22**.
If the Jews could forgive sins, put **G** in blanks **6, 15, 17, 22**.
- If following Jesus teaches men the truth and sets them free, put **A** in blanks **11, 25, and 38**.
If a good education teaches men the truth and sets them free, put **E** in blanks **11, 25, and 38**.
- If Jesus didn't fight back when He was arrested, put **I** in blanks **4, 13, 28, 37, and 41**.
If Jesus fought back when He was arrested, put **A** in blanks **4, 13, 28, 37, and 41**.
- If Jesus was burned at the stake, put **E** in blanks **16, 20, 23, 34, and 36**.
If Jesus was executed on a Roman cross, put **O** in blanks **16, 20, 23, 34, and 36**.
- If Jesus rose to life again three days after He had died, put **S** in blanks **5, 8, 9, 24, 27, and 33**.
If Jesus' body is still buried near the place where He died, put **W** in blanks **5, 8, 9, 24, 27, and 33**.
- If those who follow Jesus will go to Hell, put an **O** in blanks **7, 12, 19, 26, 31, and 42**.
If those who follow Jesus will live forever, put an **E** in blanks **7, 12, 19, 26, 31, and 42**.

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What did Paul mean when he wrote that he was chief among sinners?



Among people you know, who is the chief sinner?

Additional Activities and Ideas for Lesson 1

- **Read the story** that begins on page 103 of this manual.
- **Do the Optional Worksheet for Lesson 1**, which you have photocopied from page 83. Find the instructions and answers for the Optional Worksheet on page 93.
- **Sing several songs about the salvation Jesus brought to mankind.**
 - “He Was Nailed to the Cross for Me” *Zion's Praises #156*
 - “Tell Me the Story of Jesus” *Zion's Praises #139*
- **Play Bible Baseball.** See Appendix D, pages 124-125

Insights From Culture and History

Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, Judea, one of the lesser provinces of the Roman Empire. His development into manhood took place in insignificant rural villages. He lived a short life by modern evaluation—thirty-three years. He taught in Jewish synagogues and towns a mere three years before being delivered for execution at the will of His own people, to be tortured and crucified by the imperial Roman government.

Had Jesus been an ordinary man it would have ended there. No history books, legends, or folk tales would have extended the story more than a few years, at best. Most of the world would have never noticed then—or now. He'd have ended up as nothing more than a forgotten statistic.

But Jesus was not an ordinary man. He was the Son of God Almighty—moderator of eternity, Creator of the universe, and lover of His own created mankind.

Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus rose miraculously out of a guarded sepulcher, just as He had predicted. The wickedest act that men could inflict had miserably failed.

Jesus was alive, never to die again! Hallelujah!

Since then, the world has changed immensely, but its need for a Saviour never ends. Envy, hatred, jealousy, rejection of truth, and hypocrisy still prevail. The world mocks, but Jesus is still God's remedy for the sin of the whole world.