

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 5: MESSIAH APPEARS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- The promised Messiah finally appears and is unlike any man who has ever walked the earth
- The Messiah is the only man who has been sent to Earth (that is, he existed before his birth)
- The Messiah comes on a mission: to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- Those who recognize and receive him as the One sent from God are born into God's family and become his children

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last time...** For centuries, the prophets of Israel foretold that God would one day send a special leader to Earth. This promised one was known as the *Messiah*. The Messiah would be the ultimate leader of mankind; the one God wanted all people to follow. He would also be the ultimate servant of God; the one who worked and suffered to accomplish God's plan. As the years passed, Israel waited and watched for Messiah to come.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ This week we'll learn more about the Messiah and how he came into the world. We'll get a clearer picture about his mission and what he came to accomplish. We'll also see that when he finally appeared, most people failed to recognize him.

As we read the story, be thinking about these things:

- How is the Messiah different from anyone who has ever walked the Earth?
- How did people respond to his coming?

5. Read **John 1.1-29** and then discuss:

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- What are some details you noticed from this story?
 - In this reading we find John the Baptist announcing Jesus' arrival to the world. Who did John claim that Jesus was? (vs. 29)
 - How did people respond to Jesus' arrival? (vs. 9-13)
 - In this passage we see Jesus described in many ways (the Word, the true light, the Christ, the Lamb of God). What do these descriptions teach us about who Jesus is?
 - This passage tells us quite a bit about why Jesus came to earth. In your own words, why did he come? What was his mission?
 - Has anyone else ever come into the world the way Jesus did? Has anyone else ever had the same mission that Jesus did? How is Jesus one-of-a-kind?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- Jesus is unique; he is unlike any person who has ever walked the Earth. How is this seen from what we read today?
 - What do you think it means to recognize and receive Jesus, the Messiah who has come into the world? How do we do this, and why is it so important? (John 1.9-13)

7. Closing Prayer