



Rejoice Learning Center

USA, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh,
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Benin

Lesson 1: Who is Jesus?

In today's lesson, we learn:

1. What did Jesus say about himself?
2. How did the Old Testament prophets call Jesus?
3. What did people who encountered Jesus say about him?
4. What did demons, and angels call him?
5. What do New Testament writers say about him?
6. How did the devil and the religious leaders question Jesus's Identity?
7. Why did Jesus, the Son of God, appear?
8. Is Jesus God?

Goals of lesson 1:

To know Jesus as the only Savior, Son of God, and God.

1. WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?

He said he came from heaven (John 3:13).

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[a]

He said to be sent from Heaven (John 6:38).

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

He said to see Him was to see God (John 12:45).

The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.

He said to receive Him was to receive God (Mark 9:37).

³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

He said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

He made Himself equal with God (John 5:18).

¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

He said he had glory before the world existed (John 17:5).

⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

He said that if you know Him you know God (John 8:19).

Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

He said that whoever saw Him saw the Father (John 14:9).

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

He said to be perfectly sinless (John 8:46).

⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

He didn't deny being the Son of God (John 19:7).

The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." (Jesus remained silent...he didn't deny being the Son of God even under threats.)

He said he had the authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:5 and Mark 2:10).

⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

He demonstrated that he had the authority to heal the sick (Mark 2:11-12).

(Jesus speaking to a paralyzed man): "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He (the paralyzed man) got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

He demonstrated that he had the authority to drive out demons (Matthew 8:16).

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

He demonstrated that he had the authority to raise the dead (Luke 7:14-16).

And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.¹⁶ Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

He said he had the power to raise himself from the dead (John 2:19).

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

(John 10:17-18). ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

He said He would send his angels (Matthew 13:41).

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

He said he is the Savior and he will come back to judge the world (Mark 14:62).

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

He said that those who acknowledge him, he will acknowledge (Matthew 10:32-33).

³² "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

He said he was Lord of the Sabbath with authority over it (Mark 2:27-28).

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

He demonstrated authority over the Law (Matthew 5:21-22).

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

He said he came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17).

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Jesus used the divine name “I AM” for himself:

Before Abraham was, I AM (John 8:58).

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’

In Exodus 3:13–15 we read, “Then Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM has sent me to you.**’” God also said to Moses, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.’ “

I AM the beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13).

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’ “

John 6:33, we get His meaning when He says, “For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12).

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ “

I AM the Door (John 10:7–9).

“So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.’ “

Luke 13:24, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–15).

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25–27).

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’ ”

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

I AM the True Vine (John 15:1–2).

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

The branches that do not grow fruit are cut and thrown into the fire **(John 15:6).**

Jesus referred to himself over 80 times as Son of Man, identifying with us human beings (Matthew 12:32).

Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the one to come.

**TAKE A 10 MINUTE BREAK.
OFFER TEA & FRUIT.**

2. HOW DID THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS CALL JESUS?

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel.**” **GOD WITH US**

Isaiah 59:20. “**The Redeemer** will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the Lord.

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be **ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.**”

Jeremiah 23:5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David **a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.**”

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your **king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly** and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

3. WHAT DID PEOPLE WHO ENCOUNTERED JESUS SAY ABOUT HIM?

Peter was a fisherman who on a particular night caught nothing. But once he let down his net where Jesus told him, he caught many fish. Peter then realized that Jesus was not just a regular man. Matthew 16:13-20:

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

Martha's brother Lazarus died. Jesus went to visit and resurrect him. Before he did so he had a conversation with Martha.

John 11:25: Jesus told Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:27 "Yes, Lord," she answered, **"I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."**

John the Baptist was a powerful prophet who prepared the way for Jesus. He told people to repent. When he saw Jesus he said:

John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

When Jesus met Nathanael, He declared that he was an Israelite in whom there is no deceit. Jesus had seen Nathanael under the fig tree before Philip called him.

John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.

Saul was a pharisee who persecuted Christians. He had an encounter with Jesus that changed his life. Jesus told him that Saul was his chosen vessel to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

Act 9:20 And straightway he (Saul) preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Rom 1:4: Paul the apostle declared Jesus Christ our Lord to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

John the evangelist preached that we can only overcome the world through faith in Jesus.

1 John 5:5 "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

The apostle John loved Jesus very much and he wrote:

John 20:31 But these (signs) are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.

The disciples worshiped Jesus and declared him to be the Son of God.

Matt 14:32-33 ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat **worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”**

New Testament Believers (Paul, Silas and Timothy) acknowledged Jesus as Son of God and as Promise Keeper.

2 Corinthians 1:19 “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

FOREIGNERS CALLED HIM THE SON OF GOD or SON OF DAVID

An Ethiopian of great authority was traveling and reading the scriptures of Isaiah when he encountered Philip. Philip explained the scriptures to him and the foreigner asked to be baptized.

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he (the Ethiopian) answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

A Centurion (Roman soldier in authority) who watched Jesus during and after his crucifixion concluded Jesus to be the Son of God.

Matt 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

A Canaanite woman called Jesus the Son of David – recognizing that he was a King.

Matt 15:22 Suddenly, a Canaanite woman from that territory came near and began to shout, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed!"

There is another story of a **blind man** who wasn't a foreigner - but he also addressed Jesus as the Son of David in Luke 18:38.

Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea labeled Jesus as “King of the Jews”:

Matthew 27:37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

MULTITUDES FOLLOWED JESUS

John 6:2 “And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did by healing the sick.”

4. WHAT DID DEMONS AND ANGELS CALL HIM?

DEMONS CALLED HIM THE SON OF GOD

Mark 3:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

Mark 5:7 (The unclean spirit) said, 'What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of God the Most High? In God's name, do not torture me!'

ANGELS CALLED HIM THE SON OF GOD

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her (Mary), The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

5 WHAT DO NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS SAY ABOUT HIM?

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.

Hebrews 1:3 "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

He is the Word became flesh, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Jesus is called "his Majesty" and the Son of God.

2 Peter 1:16-17 "For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus is called the Word of Life.

1 John 1:1-2 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”

John 6:68 “Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have **the words of eternal life.**”

Paul called him Lord.

Philippians 2:10-11 “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Paul called him the head over everything for the church.

Ephesians 1:20-22 “he exerted when God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.”

The writer of Hebrews called him the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:2 “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Jesus is the cornerstone and Jesus is the only name that brings salvation.

Acts 4:11-12 “Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Jesus is called “The Living Stone”

1 Peter 2:4-6 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

- “See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

6. HOW DID THE DEVIL AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS QUESTION JESUS' IDENTITY?

Matt 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the **Son of God**, command that these stones be made bread.

Luk 22:70 Then said they (**the Jewish council**) all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.

Matt 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

7. WHY DID JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, APPEAR?

Galatians 2:20 (Paul said) "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

1. John 3:8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

8. IS JESUS GOD?

Yes, we already heard earlier that Jesus made it clear that he and the father are one and we also heard what the prophets said. Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel.**” **GOD WITH US**

John 1 also confirms that JESUS IS GOD.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 17:11 assures us that JESUS AND THE FATHER HAVE THE SAME NAME.

(Jesus praying) I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the **power of your name, the name you gave me**, so that they may be one as we are one.

Matthew 28:19-20 TALKS ABOUT THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What is that name? The disciples understood that that name was JESUS.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

JESUS IS THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. JESUS IS GOD. Deut 6:4 ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

END LESSON 1