



The Words of Jesus Series

Jesus is Lord

Jesus reveals Himself, honors John the Baptist and adopts us

Course Text: Luke 7 & 8; Matthew 12, Mark 3, John 5

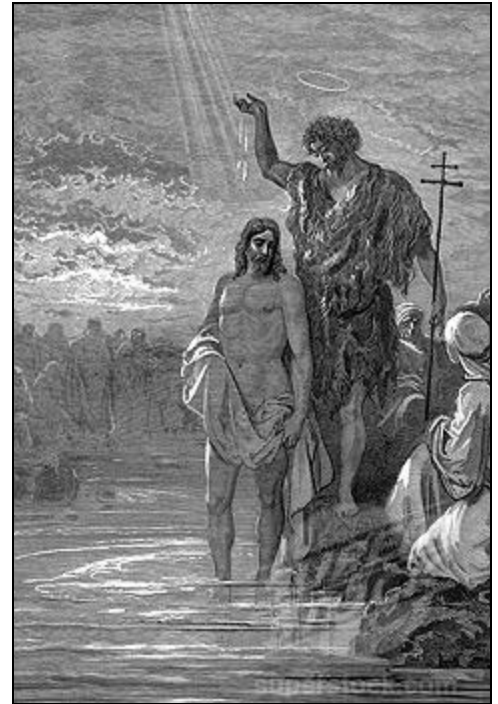
Outline

Lesson 1 - Jesus Reveals His Identity (John 5:16-47)

Lesson 2 - John the Baptist (Luke 7:18-35)

Lesson 3 - Jesus Has a New Family – Us! (Luke 8:19-21)

Jesus reveals His deity, answers questions from the disciples of John the Baptist and honors him, and then explains who is real family is.



John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus
by Gustav Dore

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought" or just start the next chapter. Of course, you can always use the standard questions, "What would you like to remember from this lesson?" or "What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know before?"

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Lesson 1 - Jesus Reveals His Identity (John 5:16-47)

Please read Matthew 12:38-45 and answer these questions:

[1A] What kind of generation craves a sign? _____

[1B] Who is wiser than Solomon? _____

Please read John 5:16-47 and answer the following questions:

[1C] Who did Jesus make Himself equal to? _____

[1D] What do people who believe God's words get? _____

[1E] To what does Jesus compare John the Baptist? _____

[1F] To what do the Scriptures testify? _____

[1G] Who wrote about Jesus? _____

[1H] In John chapter 5:31-47 Jesus calls on the testimony of witnesses for His claim of Lordship. Who are the 4 or 5 witnesses and what are their testimonies? (4 or 5 depending on how you interpret the passage.) *Think & Pray*

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____



I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. - JOHN 5:24 NIV

Lesson 1 - Jesus Reveals His Identity

[1A] What kind of generation craves a sign?

An evil and adulterous generation Mt 12:39

[1B] Who is wiser than Solomon? Jesus Christ Mt 12:42

[1C] Who did Jesus make Himself equal to? God Jn 5:18

[1D] What do people who believe God's words get?

They avoid judgment and have eternal life. Jn 5:24

[1E] To what does Jesus compare John the Baptist? A shining lamp Jn 5:35

[1F] To what do the Scriptures testify? They testify of Jesus. Jn 5:39

[1G] Who wrote about Jesus? Moses Jn 5:46

[1H] **Witnesses:** In those days when most people were illiterate and there was no such thing a video tape, witnesses were very important. That is what Jesus is talking about when in verse 31 He says, "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid." Then He calls on the testimony of four or five witnesses:

[1] John the Baptist (John 5:33-35)

[2] His own works together with the Father that are too miraculous to be human
(John 5:36)

[3] Old Testament. (Moses) (John 5:39 & 46)

[4] God the Father, perhaps referring to His baptism or the transfiguration
(John 5:37)

[4 continued OR 5] and/or He may have been talking about the still small voice of
God that is within us. (John 5:38)

For further thought:

(1i) If you needed to prove you were a Christian in a court of law, who would you call as your witnesses? What evidence would you have?

(1j) In Matthew 12:38 why did the Pharisees ask for a miracle? The Bible does not say why, so our answer must be speculative, but since these people were all the time trying to trap Him, what do you think the trap was here?

(1k) In John 5:24 Jesus makes a promise? What are the conditions of the promise and what do we get if we meet those conditions? Have you met those conditions? How do you know?

Lesson 2 - John the Baptist (Luke 7:18-35)

John sends disciples to ask Jesus who He is. Jesus answers the question by pointing to fulfilled prophesy. Jesus describes John in highly complimentary terms.

Disciples from John ask Jesus Who He is (Luke 7:18-23)

[2A] According to Matthew 11:2 where was John when he sent the disciples to ask Jesus the question? _____

[2B] Please read Luke 7:18-23 and answer this: What was Jesus doing when they questioned Him? _____

[2C] Please read Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1 and answer this: Which verse in the Luke 7:18-23 passage you just read above, do these two Isaiah verses match? _____
So What? _____

Jesus' Tribute to John the Baptist (Luke 7:24-35)

[2D] In Matt 11:14 which Old Testament prophet did Jesus compare with John? _____

[2E] In Luke 7: 24-26, what did they go into the wilderness to see? _____

[2F] In Luke 7:28 who is greater than John the Baptist? _____

[2G] In Luke 7:31-34 what is Jesus point? _____

[2H] Please read Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:5. If Malachi 3:1 to which Jesus referred in Matthew 11:10 above, and Malachi 4:5 is referring to 3:1 how can John the Baptist be the fulfillment of the prophecy unless he is actually Elijah himself? Also see Lk 1:17, Mt 17:12-13.

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(2i) In Luke 7:31-34 Jesus described people who could not be pleased no matter what. How can we reach people like this with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Are you ever determined not to be pleased?

(2j) John the Baptist knew who Jesus was when he baptized Him. Why did he send people to ask Him who He was? Did he forget or could it be he wanted them to find out for themselves something he already knew? Why?

(2k) When did you come to know Who Jesus is? What convinced you?

(2l) Compare Luke 7:21-23 with Isaiah 29:18-19, Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1. What was Jesus telling John?

Lesson 2 - John the Baptist

[2A] Where was John when he sent the disciples to ask Jesus the question? In prison Mt 11:2

[2B] What was Jesus doing when they questioned Him?

Healing people and giving sight to the blind Lk 7:21

[2C] Which verse in the Luke 7:18-23 passage you just read above, do these two Isaiah verses match?

Luke 7:22 Jesus was telling John the Baptist, and anyone else knowledgeable of the Old Testament, that He, Jesus, was the Expected One, the Coming Messiah.

[2D] What Old Testament prophet did Jesus compare with John? Elijah Mt 11:14

[2E] In Luke 7: 24-26, what did they go into the wilderness to see? A prophet

[2F] In Luke 7:28 who is greater than John the Baptist? The least in the kingdom of God

[2G] In Luke 7:31-34 what is Jesus point? They were determined to be displeased

[2H] Answer from GotQuestions.org: Jesus quotes from Malachi 3:1, where the messenger appears to be a prophetic figure who is going to appear. According to Malachi 4:5, this messenger is “the prophet Elijah,” whom Jesus identifies here as John the Baptist. Does this mean that John the Baptist was Elijah reincarnated? Not at all.

First, the concept of reincarnation would have been completely foreign to the Jewish mind. We cannot simply import Eastern religious thought into the words of a first century Jew. If anything, Elijah “come again” would have simply been Elijah raised from the dead at the coming of the Lord (cf. Daniel 12). So even if John the Baptist was literally the person of Elijah, it would have been a resurrection, not a reincarnation. To say otherwise is to force one’s preconceived view of reincarnation on Scripture.

Second, the Bible is quite clear that John the Baptist is given this designation because he came in the “spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17), not because he was Elijah in a literal sense. John the Baptist is the New Testament forerunner who points the way to the arrival of the Lord, just as Elijah filled that role in the Old Testament (and will again in the future – see Revelation 11).

Third, Elijah himself appears with Moses at Jesus’ transfiguration after John the Baptist’s death. This would not have happened if Elijah had changed his identity (Matthew 17:11-12).

Fourth, Mark 6:14-16 and 8:28 show that both the people and Herod distinguished between John the Baptist and Elijah. Finally, proof that this is not an instance of reincarnation comes from John the Baptist himself. In the first chapter of John’s (the Apostle) Gospel, John the Baptist identifies himself as the messenger of Isaiah 40:3, not as the Elijah of Malachi 3:1. John the Baptist even goes so far as to specifically deny that he was Elijah (John 1:19-23).

John did for Jesus what Elijah was to have done for the coming of the Lord, but he was not Elijah reincarnated. Jesus identified John the Baptist in his role as Elijah, while John the Baptist rejected the identification when it came to the religious leaders. How do we reconcile these two teachings? There is a key phrase in Jesus’ identification of John the Baptist with Elijah in the text above that must not be overlooked. He says, “if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah.” In other words, John the Baptist’s identification as Elijah was not predicated upon him being Elijah, but rather upon people’s responses to his role. To those who were willing to believe in Jesus, John the Baptist functioned as Elijah, for they believed in Jesus as Lord. To the religious leaders who rejected Jesus, John the Baptist did not perform this function.

Lesson 3 - Jesus Has a New Family – Us! (Luke 8:19-21)

[3A] According to Mark 3:21 what made his family come try to get Jesus?

Please read Luke 8:19-21 and answer these three questions:

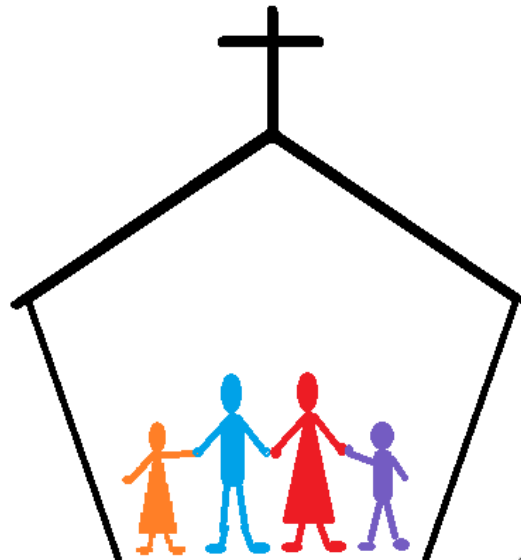
[3B] Why were people having trouble getting near Him? _____

[3C] Did his family speak to Him? _____

[3D] The family of Jesus are those who do what? _____

[3E] In Matthew 12:49 who did Jesus call his family? _____

Come, be a part of the family!



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[3F] What does Luke 8:19-21 mean?

Lesson 3 - Jesus Has a New Family – Us!

[3A] What made his family come try to get Jesus?

They had heard he was out of his senses (insane) Mk 3:21

[3B] Why were people having trouble getting near Him? The crowd Lk 8:19

[3C] Did his family speak to Him? No, someone told Him they were outside Lk 8:20

[3D] The family of Jesus are those who do what?

Hear and do the word of God Lk 8:21

[3E] Who did Jesus call his family? His disciples Mt 12:49



[3F] Jesus is saying that the family that matters the most is not the biological one, but the family of God. He goes on to say who are members of His family. Are you a member of His family? How do you know?

For further thought:

(3g) Compare Matthew 12:46-50 with Matthew 10:32-39. Are they talking about the same thing?

(3h) Please read John 11:17-27 and answer these questions: When Jesus arrived how long had Lazarus been entombed? Did Martha ask Jesus anything? What did Martha want Jesus to do? Who or what did Jesus say He is? Who did Martha say that He is? What can we learn from how Jesus responded to Martha? Who is Jesus?

(3i) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3j) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3k) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?