

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 7

John's Disciples

“Are you the One?”

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will present the students with the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” by looking at John the Baptist’s question, “Are you the one who is to come?” in Luke 7.

Key Verses

Luke 7:1-23—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 3:11

Matthew 16:15

Memory Verse - Matthew 16:14-15

“Jesus said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Matthew 5:43-44.

Give to your class the description of a famous historical figure given in the back of this packet and see if your class is able to guess who it is. Describe the person by giving their accomplishments.

Just like your class was able to figure out this person from the description, the Israelites were given a description of who their Messiah would be in the Old Testament. In today’s story, John wants to know if Jesus is the one they were describing.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Luke 7, Jesus had finished teaching the crowd and travelled into the town of Capernaum. Upon entering the city, He was made aware of two emergency situations. A centurion sent word to Jesus that his servant was sick and on the verge of dying. Jesus began to travel to the centurion's house, but when the centurion heard this, he sent word to Jesus again. This time he said that Jesus did not need to come all the way to the house, but by simply saying a word his servant would be healed. Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith, and without even being in the servant's presence, healed him completely.

Following this, Jesus traveled south to the town of Nain. In this town, the situation was even more dire. Jesus and the disciples came upon a funeral procession. A widow had lost her only son. Showing great compassion to her, Jesus stopped them and said to the deceased, "Young man, I say to you arise." The young man who had been dead sat up and began to speak to his mother. The whole crowd was astonished and even became afraid at this display of power. They started to talk to everyone who would listen about Jesus' power to heal and even to raise the dead. Word soon spread through the whole region of Galilee and even down into Judea.

Hearing these reports, disciples of John the Baptist shared with him the news of a prophet healing, teaching, and giving life to the dead. John sent two messengers to Jesus asking a simple question, "Are you the one who is to come?" In response, Jesus proceeded to heal many people of diseases and cast demons out of people. He said to the messengers, "Go and tell John what you have seen; the blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised up."

LOOK

John the Baptist heard reports about a prophet healing people, casting out demons, and even raising people from the dead, and it made him very excited. John's mission in life was to proclaim the coming Messiah. He had been raised up by God to prepare the way for "one who is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11). When he heard about the work that Jesus was doing, John wondered if his work was almost complete. John wanted to step out of the way and let the Messiah be lifted up. He would even say "He must increase and I must decrease" (John 3:30).

When John's disciples came to Jesus and asked Him this very important question, "are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK (Continued)

another?" Jesus did not answer directly. He allowed the disciples of John to make up their own minds. He told them to report to John all the miracles they had heard and seen. John and his disciples, just like everyone else, needed to determine in their own hearts who Jesus really was. The centurion had already placed his faith and trust in Christ. He called Jesus "Lord" in verse 6, but more than that, declared boldly that sickness and health are under the authority of Jesus. The centurion knew that Jesus was in control, and that life and death are in His control. The crowd at Nain had a different reaction. They saw Jesus show His power over death itself and their response was to call Jesus a prophet like Elisha. When they saw Jesus raise someone from the dead, they became afraid.

Like John the Baptist, the centurion in Capernaum, or the crowd in Nain, we have to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" Was Jesus just a nice person who went around healing people? Was He just a teacher who taught to people to love each other? Was He a crazy person who believed that He could do incredible miracles but really couldn't? Or was Jesus the Lord of the Universe who came down to Earth to set us free from sin and death?

Jesus' disciple Peter would be confronted with this very question. Peter would not answer like the crowd, believing Jesus to be a nice guy or a great prophet. Peter would answer "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15).

Now the question is asked of us, "Who do you, 3rd, 4th or 5th grader, say that Jesus is?" Is He the Savior? Is He the God who came to save us? More importantly than that, is He *YOUR* savior? Is He the God who has already saved *YOU*?"

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 16:14-15.

Ask the students who Jesus is to them. Talk through their responses and invite them to think about Jesus as more than a friend, more than a distant, far away God, but as the right here, right now, Lord of their lives.

Pray: Thank the Lord for revealing who He is to us. Ask Him to make Himself even more fully known in our hearts and minds.

Parent Question: How did Jesus show John's disciples that He was the Messiah?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 7:1-23 by David Guzik

The Sick Healed, the Dead Raised, the Sinner Forgiven

A. A centurion's servant is healed.

1. (1-5) The centurion's request.

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

a. **A certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die:** This centurion seems to be a devout, kind, humble man-yet, all the same he is a *centurion*-not only a Gentile, but a Roman soldier, and an instrument of Israel's oppression.

i. The centurion had an unusual attitude towards his slave. Under Roman law, a master had the right to kill his slave, and it was expected that he would do so if the slave became ill or injured to the point where he could not work.

b. **He sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant:** Apparently, the centurion did not think himself worthy of a personal meeting with Jesus, and perhaps thought Jesus would not *want* to meet with a Gentile like himself, so he sent Jewish leaders as his representatives to Jesus.

i. We don't need to have the centurion's fear today. We don't need to send a representative to Jesus-we can come to Him ourselves.

2. (6-8) The centurion tells Jesus that He need not come, because he knows that Jesus need not be present to do His work.

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

a. **Then Jesus went with them:** Jesus did not hesitate to go to the centurion's house, and we half wish the centurion would have allowed Him. Would Jesus have entered a Gentile's house? It was completely against Jewish custom, but not against God's law.

b. **But say the word, and my servant will be healed:** The centurion fully understands that Jesus' healing power was not some sort of magic trick that required the magician's presence. Instead he knew Jesus had true *authority*, and can command things to be done and completed outside His immediate presence.

i. The centurion shows great faith in Jesus' *word*. He understands that Jesus can heal with His word just as easily as with a touch.

ii. **For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me:** The centurion also knew about the military chain of command, and how the orders of one in authority were unquestioningly obeyed-he sees that Jesus has *at least* that much authority.

iii. "He believes that, just as he, a man with authority, is obeyed by his subordinates, just so surely will the authoritative utterance of Christ be fulfilled even though He is not present where the sick person is." (Geldenhuys)

c. The centurion also shows great sensitivity to Jesus, in that he wants to spare Jesus the awkward challenge of whether or not to enter a Gentile's house-as well as the time and trouble of travel.

i. He didn't know Jesus well enough to know that He would feel awkward in the least; but his *consideration* of Jesus in this situation is impressive.

3. (9-10) Jesus heals the servant and marvels at the centurion's faith.

When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

a. **He marveled at him:** We see that Jesus only **marveled** on a few occasions. He does so here, at the faith of the centurion, and also at the unbelief of His own people ([Mark 6:6](#)). Jesus can be amazed at either our *faith* or our *unbelief*.

b. The centurion knew that Jesus had true power from God, not magic that had to be used according to some ritualistic formula.

B. Jesus raises a boy from the dead.

1. (11-13) Jesus comes upon a funeral procession.

Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

a. **A dead man was being carried out:** The tragedy is compounded when we are told that the boy was **the only son of his mother** and that the mother herself was a **widow**. The loss of her only son means that there is nothing in her future except a life of destitute poverty and misery.

b. **Do not weep:** Why does Jesus tell her to stop crying? There is nothing wrong for a mother to **weep** at the funeral of her son; but Jesus is showing her that her sorrow will be turned to joy. Jesus' words of compassion to the mother would have been cruel if He did not have the power to back them up.

2. (14-17) Jesus raises the boy from the dead.

Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

a. **He came and touched the open coffin:** The picture is all the more powerful when we are told that it was an **open coffin**. Jesus is able to look at this boy, and speak to a dead person as if they were alive.

b. **Young man, I say to you, arise:** [Romans 4:17](#) shows that this is what God alone does—speak to the dead as if they were alive. *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.* Jesus could speak to something dead and bring life to it.

c. **So he who was dead sat up and began to speak:** Jesus had a strange habit of breaking up funeral processions by raising the dead, such as Jarius' daughter ([Luke 8:41-56](#)) and Lazarus ([John 11:1-45](#)). Jesus didn't like death, and He regarded it as an enemy that had to be defeated.

d. We remember that this boy was not resurrected, but resuscitated—he rose from the dead only to die again. God promises that we will be resurrected, and rise from the dead never to die again.

C. Jesus and John the Baptist.

1. (18-19) John questions Jesus: are You really the Christ (the Messiah)?

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

a. **Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?** Why does John ask this question, especially after all the miraculous signs that would demonstrate this to him? Weren't all the prophecies through his father Zacharias ([Luke 1:13-17](#) and [1:67-80](#)) and the voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism ([Luke 3:21-22](#)) enough proof?

b. Matthew tells us that John asked this question from prison ([Matthew 11:2-3](#)). Even John the Baptist probably had some misunderstanding of Jesus' mission, and thought: "If He really is who I thought He is, why am I in prison?" John probably asked this question because of discouragement in prison.

i. "John was already in prison, and things began to appear incomprehensible to him. He had expected that Christ would speedily destroy the powers of darkness and judge the unrighteous. But instead of doing this, He leaves him, His forerunner, helpless in prison." (Geldenhuys)

ii. It is the same with us. Our discouraging circumstances often cause us to forget or doubt who Jesus is.

2. (20-23) Jesus' answer to John's disciples: tell him that the Messiah is alive and well.

When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me."

a. **And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight:** John might have wondered why the power of the Messiah was not being shown in more significant acts, such as in freeing him from prison and calling down fire from heaven on the evil political leaders who put him in prison!

b. **Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard:** Jesus sends John's messengers back with a simple report. The Messiah is definitely here, but His power is manifested in acts of mercy, not judgment, and **blessed is he** who can receive this Messiah of mercy.

i. When discouragement has led us to believe that Jesus isn't really who we thought He was, we need to clear our eyes and look to God's Word to see who He really is.

c. How can we know that the power of Jesus is really at work? When we see the simple needs of simple people being met in a powerful way.

Samples for Hook:

Abraham Lincoln:

- He was the 16th president of the United States
- He gave the Gettysburg Address in November of 1863
- He was president during the Civil War
- He was instrumental in ending slavery in the U.S.

Betsy Ross:

- She was known as the first woman to sew the American flag
- She lived during the Revolutionary War

Daniel:

- He was taken away to Babylon as a young child
- He was able to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- He lived during the Old Testament
- He was thrown in a lion's den

Sarah:

- She was around in the Old Testament
- She was Abraham's wife
- She was the mother of Isaac
- When God told her she would have son, she laughed