

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

A SERIES OF BASIC DOCTRINAL LESSONS

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PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

All true evangelism is Christ-centred. When we examine evangelism in the New Testament, we see that the apostles preached Christ. We must do the same. We must present simply and clearly the great truths about the person and work of Christ. This is the express purpose of these doctrinal lessons.

The series was designed to supplement regular Bible lessons published by CEF[®]. These lessons can be used in open-air 5-Day Clubs[®] where you reach many children who have never been taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. In this case you should omit the parts of the text which are indented in brackets. They can also be used in Good News Clubs[®], Sunday Schools or anywhere children are being regularly taught the Word of God. In this case you can teach all of the text.

Whatever the situation, we recommend that you stay close to the script. There is a danger of the lessons becoming long and complicated, if you enlarge on the text. The idea is that each lesson should last about eight minutes.

Normally the teacher does not read out the captions as he turns the flashcards. The meaning of the captions will become apparent as the lessons are taught. If you have young children in your group, point to the words at appropriate times during the lesson.

Through the lessons you will teach the children how to personally trust Christ as Lord and Saviour. However some children may still have questions about how to do this. It is important to tell them that you are available to talk with them individually after the meeting, and where they can come to speak to you (see examples below). Avoid giving the impression that they must speak to the teacher in order to trust Christ.

Words and pictures seem inadequate to express the glorious truths these lessons aim to teach. The artist, Didi Hegnauer, and I have been very conscious of this. But it is our prayer that God will use these lessons to bring many children to the Saviour.

Jennifer Haaijer

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Lesson 1

The Lord Jesus Christ - The Son of God

Scripture for teachers

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 24:18-27,36-43

Acts 2:32-36

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 1-1 What a storm!
- Flashcard 1-2 “What a man!”
- Flashcard 1-3 Jesus Christ is God the Son
- Flashcard 1-4 He forgave sin
- Flashcard 1-5 He died for the sin of the world
- Flashcard 1-6 He rose from the dead
- Flashcard 1-7 He lives forever
- Flashcard 1-8 You can know Him

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1 - What a storm!

They were caught in a very fierce storm! The boat seemed so small as it was tossed to and fro by the howling gale. Now waves were breaking over the side. What were they going to do? These men were fishermen. They knew how to handle boats, but this was impossible! They were going to drown!

But there was one man at the back of the boat, sleeping through it all! The others wakened Him.

“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

He didn’t panic. Very calmly He got up and spoke to the wind and waves.

“Peace, be still,” He commanded.

At that moment everything was calm! The other men in the boat were terrified.

“Who is this?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

Flashcard 1-2 - “What a man!”

“Who is this?” That was the question many people asked. “Who is this man Jesus?” People talked a lot about Him.

“He makes sick people well. He can make them better in a moment.”

“He fed 5,000 people with one boy’s lunch and everyone had plenty to eat!”

“There was a man who died and had been buried. Jesus brought him back to life and the man still lives in Bethany!”

“Who is He? He’s doing things that only God can do.”

That was the secret! This man, Jesus Christ, was God. He was God’s only Son. He could tell the wind and waves what to do, for He made them! He was God, so He had power over sickness and death. He could do anything He wished. Nothing was too difficult for Him. This was God, God the Son, Who was doing these wonderful things which amazed the people.

If you had asked the people, “Where did Jesus come from?” they would have said, “He’s from Nazareth.” But this answer would be only partly right, for Jesus Christ came from Heaven. He had always lived in Heaven with God, His Father. He was as great and as powerful as His Father. He made the sun and moon, the stars, and our beautiful world. The Bible says, “All things were made through Him” (John 1:3).

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 1-3 - Jesus Christ is God the Son

Yet there He was, walking among the people and teaching them. He wasn't in Heaven, He was on Earth.

How did it happen? Hundreds of years earlier God had promised that His Son would come to Earth. He gave His people many clues about this exciting event. These clues are written down in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible. There we read some of the names He would have. One is "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6). God wants us to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is much more than a good, kind man. He is God's only Son - "Mighty God".

Even the people of Nazareth, the town where the Lord Jesus grew up, did not know Who He really was. They thought He was the son of Joseph and his wife Mary, but they were wrong! When the Lord Jesus left Heaven to come into the world, He became a man. Indeed He became a little baby. Mary was His mother, but He did not have a human father. God was His Father. He was a real little baby boy, but He never stopped being God.

Very few people knew this and so they were very puzzled by the wonderful things the Lord Jesus Christ did and taught. Wherever He went, people crowded around. They didn't want to miss anything!

Flashcard 1-4 - He forgave sin

One day many people crammed into a house to listen to Him. Four men brought along their friend who was paralysed. Do you know what paralysed means?

Allow the children to answer.

They were very disappointed for they couldn't get near the Lord Jesus at all. Then someone had a clever idea! They carried their friend up the steps to the flat roof and quickly got to work. Yes, they made a hole in the roof! Down, down, down, they lowered their friend on his mattress until He was right beside the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Son of God looked kindly at him.

"Son, your sins are forgiven," He said.

How surprised the people were! Some were very angry.

"Why does this fellow talk like that? Only God can forgive sins."

Why was it wrong for these people to be angry?

Allow the children to answer.

Yes, because Jesus Christ is God. Now the Lord Jesus was going to prove that He could forgive sins also.

He said, "Get up, take up your bed ..."

At once the man did just that! In a moment the Lord Jesus had made him perfectly well. If He could heal like that, couldn't He forgive sins also? Of course He could! That man went home with all the wrong he had ever done completely forgiven.

Those who saw this exclaimed, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Very, very slowly the friends of Jesus were beginning to understand Who He was. Everything He said and did showed them that He was God, the only Son of God.

Flashcard 1-5 - He died for the sin of the world

But one day their hopes were dashed! He was nailed to a cross and died.

"If He had been God's Son, this could not have happened," they thought in despair.

They were very sad. They didn't understand that the Son of God was dying for the sin of the world.

His enemies were very glad. "Now He's dead. No-one will believe that He is God," they rejoiced.

They didn't believe that He came from Heaven, and that He was God's only Son. They were determined that others would not believe either. But they were going to get a big shock!

Flashcard 1-6 - He rose from the dead

"Jesus is alive again!"

Soon this was the news that was spreading like wildfire.

On the third day after His death, some of His friends went to the place where He had been buried, but His body wasn't there.

In fact, on that third day He talked to some of His close friends right beside the tomb where He had been buried. They could even see the marks of the nails in His hands and feet. They watched Him. They ate with Him. They touched Him. They listened to Him. They knew for sure that this really was their Lord. They were sure that He was God the Son. Who else could rise from the dead? When the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, it was as if God was saying to everyone, "Jesus Christ is my Son."

Flashcard 1-7 - He lives forever

Alan and Jeanette, a boy and girl who could be your friends, were having a competition to see who could think of the most famous people from the past.

Adapt the names according to your situation.

“Napoleon.”

“Robin Hood.”

“Alexander the Great.”

“Eh ... Christopher Columbus.”

“What about Jesus Christ?” suggested Jeanette.

“In a way you’re right, but He’s different,” said Mother. “He wasn’t only a man, He was God. And He’s not just from the past, He’s alive today.”

Jeanette could see that He was different. “Yes, and these other people can’t do anything for us now, but He can.”

“That’s right. Because He is God He can forgive every wrong you have done and He can change your life. You can’t get to know Napoleon or Robin Hood, but you can know Jesus Christ,” added Mother.

Flashcard 1-8 - You can know Him

They went on with the game but later that night Alan thought over what had been said. He was very unhappy about the wrong in his life. He knew he had often disobeyed God. He needed to be forgiven. Neither his mother nor his father could put things right between him and God, but Jesus Christ could forgive him. He was ashamed of his life. He wanted to be different. Jesus Christ would change him. Alan really wanted to know Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, in his life.

“Lord Jesus, please forgive all the wrong I’ve done. Take charge of my life and make me different,” he prayed.

Are you like Alan? If you are, why don’t you tell the Lord Jesus Christ all about it? Ask Him to forgive you. Trust Him to make you the boy or girl He wants you to be. If you come to Him, then you will know Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Review questions

- 1 Why did the men know how to handle boats? (They were fishermen.)
- 2 What did Jesus say to calm the wind and waves? (“Peace, be still.”)
- 3 True or false? Jesus was one of God’s sons. (False - Jesus was God’s only Son.)
- 4 Where did Jesus live before He came to earth? (In Heaven with God, His Father.)
- 5 What had God promised long before Jesus came to Earth? (That His Son would come to Earth.)

- 6 How did the paralysed man get to Jesus? (His friends made a hole in the roof and lowered him down to where Jesus was.)
- 7 Why was it wrong for the people to say, “Only God can forgive sins?” (Because Jesus is God. He can forgive sins.)
- 8 Why were Jesus’ enemies glad when He died on the cross? (They thought He was dead and that no one would believe He is God.)
- 9 When the people saw the risen Lord Jesus, how could they be sure that He was God the Son? (Because no one else could rise from the dead.)
- 10 What do you need to do so that the risen Lord Jesus can change your life? (Ask Him to forgive you for all the wrong you have done.)

Lesson 2

The Lord Jesus Christ - Man

Scripture for teachers

Philippians 2:1-11

Luke 1:28-38

Luke 2:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Peter 2:24

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 2-1 It really happened
- Flashcard 2-2 The Son of God became man
- Flashcard 2-3 The Lord Jesus grew up
- Flashcard 2-4 He understands you
- Flashcard 2-5 The Lord Jesus was tempted
- Flashcard 2-6 He can help you
- Flashcard 2-7 He loves sinners
- Flashcard 2-8 He, the sinless One, died for sinners

Lesson

Flashcard 2-1 - It really happened

“I’m reading a really interesting book about an old shepherd,” Alan told Jeanette at breakfast time. “He lived in a little tumbledown hut up the mountains so that he could always be near his sheep. Last night I read about how one of his sheep started to behave very strangely. It wouldn’t go near the rest of the flock. It didn’t want to lie down at night. The old shepherd couldn’t find out what was wrong with it.”

“I wish I could become a sheep. Then perhaps I’d understand what’s wrong,” he thought. “Of course it was impossible for the shepherd to become a sheep!”

“But something even more impossible than that really did happen once,” said Mother.

“When?” asked Alan in a puzzled voice.

“When God became man,” replied Mother.

“You mean when the Lord Jesus came to Earth?” asked Jeanette.

“Yes, the Son of God humbled Himself and became a man. It really happened,” explained Mother.

“Hadn’t He always lived in Heaven with God the Father?” Jeanette was very interested now.

“Yes, He wasn’t a man then. He became a man when He came into the world,” continued Mother.

“I never thought of it like that before. It is wonderful that He was willing to become a person like us,” Alan mused.

Flashcard 2-2 - The Son of God became man

Let’s think about how this happened. God made a body for Him and He was born as a baby. What a change it was for the Lord Jesus to come down from Heaven to Earth! Heaven is a wonderful place, where there is no sickness, sadness or sin. But Jesus Christ left His beautiful home to become a man and to live in our world, where there is so much sorrow, sadness and sin.

He had been rich in Heaven, but when He came to Earth He was poor. He was even born in a stable where cattle usually lived. On that first night on Earth He didn’t even have a bed. His mother had to use a manger (out of which cattle ate their food) as His cot.

It is very wonderful, and it isn’t pretend or make-believe. The Son of God became a real little baby. Just like any other baby He was weak and helpless and needed His mother to care for Him. This was “Mighty God”, the One Who had made the world! He was still

See Isaiah 9:6.

God - He was God and man. The Bible does not explain how this could be, yet it tells us that it is true.

Flashcard 2-3 - The Lord Jesus grew up

When the Lord Jesus was growing up, He had to learn to walk and talk, just as you did. I'm sure He played games with His friends in Nazareth, so He understands your fun and laughter. He knows what it is like to be six years old, seven, eight, or whatever age you are. He was once that age too.

When the days are sunny and hot you like to play outside for hours. Then you come in to your mother gasping, "Mum, I'm so thirsty, I must have a cool drink." Are you ever really hungry when you come home from school? Perhaps at the end of a long, busy day you curl up in bed and say to yourself, "This is a good place to be!" The Lord Jesus knows about these feelings for He was hungry and thirsty. Remember how we heard last time that He slept in the boat during the storm. He must have been very tired.

Flashcard 2-4 - He understands you

Perhaps at school sometimes people shout angry, cruel words at you. You don't show it, but deep down you are really hurt. Have others ever told lies about you and got you into trouble? Have your friends let you down and you feel you have no friends left? These things make you very, very sad. You told your big brother or your Dad, but they didn't seem to think your problem was all that big. The Lord Jesus knows exactly how you feel. His enemies said nasty things about Him. They told lies about Him. Once all His friends left Him. He knows what it is like to be very sad. He understands.

When you trust the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive your sin, He becomes your Friend. What a wonderful Friend He is. He is always with you, He understands you when you are happy or sad. You can share all your secrets with Him.

There is one feeling which you get, which the Lord Jesus never had. Do you remember the day you took some money - it was on the table at home - to buy chocolate? You smuggled the chocolate up to your bedroom and had a little feast. You enjoyed the chocolate and nobody missed the money. But you didn't feel right, you felt guilty and unhappy. That was because you had broken one of God's commands - "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15). The Lord Jesus Christ never had a guilty conscience, for He never did anything wrong. Unlike any other baby, He was born without sin. As He grew up He never thought a sinful thought, He never cheated in a game, He was never disobedient at home. He was a perfect, sinless man.

Use practical examples that the children you teach will be able to relate to.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Often God's great enemy, Satan, came to Him, trying to get Him to do something wrong. It was hard for the Lord Jesus to say "no" to Satan, but He always did.

Flashcard 2-5 - The Lord Jesus was tempted

One day Satan took the Lord Jesus up a high mountain from which He could see the great cities, the riches of the world, the powerful armies, the mighty rulers.

"I'll give you all of these," promised Satan, "if you just kneel down and worship me."

What would the Lord Jesus do? All these could be His in a moment!

"Get away from me Satan," He replied. "God's Word says, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'" (from Matthew 4:10).

He always obeyed God His Father. He never gave in to Satan, although often Satan tried to get Him to sin. The Bible says He "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

If you are using these lessons in 5-Day Clubs® you should omit the text indented in brackets. See introduction (page 3).

Flashcard 2-6 - He can help you

When you trust Jesus Christ to forgive your sin, you then have Him as a Friend. He understands how hard it is to say "no" to wrong. When you are tempted to cheat in a test, to say cheeky things to your Mother, to be selfish and not share your sweets, He understands. He can help you to obey God and to say "no" to Satan.

Flashcard 2-7 - He loves sinners

There was a very important reason why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became a man. It was for people like you and me who had sinned against God and broken His commandments. If sinners like us were ever going to be forgiven, Someone would have to take the punishment we deserve. Only Someone Who was perfect could do that. But there was no-one good enough. Every person who has ever lived was born with a sinful heart and has grown up disobeying God. Because God loved sinners, He gave His only Son to become a man. The Lord Jesus was a perfect sinless man. He came to be the substitute for sinners. What is a substitute?

One day Alan was a "substitute". It happened at school while the teacher was out of the classroom. John rolled three marbles across the floor. Alan knew what would happen if the teacher came back in and saw them so he ran to pick them up. He was just lifting the second one when the teacher appeared at the door.

"Alan, I've told you that marbles are forbidden in the classroom! And what about the work you should be doing? You will work through lunch-break today."

John was about to tell, but Alan shook his head and put his finger to his lips. John had been in trouble only yesterday. So Alan was punished instead of John. He was a “substitute” for John.

Flashcard 2-8 - He, the sinless One, died for sinners

When the Lord Jesus died on the cross He was a substitute for sinners. He took their place and was punished for sin that wasn't His own. He could never have done that if He had not become a man. The Bible says, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).

Have you ever come to trust Him as the One Who took the dreadful punishment you deserve for your sin? Turn from your sin today. Come to Him, thanking Him for becoming a man and dying as a substitute for you. Ask Him to forgive your sin. If you truly come to Him, He will take away your sin and be your Saviour and Friend.

Review questions

- 1 How do we know Jesus was poor when He came into the world? (He was born in a stable, slept in a manger.)
- 2 Why is Heaven such a wonderful place? (There is no sickness, sadness or sin in Heaven.)
- 3 Why does Jesus understand children? (Because He was once a child, too.)
- 4 Why does Jesus understand your problems? (Because people were nasty to Him. He knows what it is like to be sad.)
- 5 Why do you feel guilty when you do something wrong, like stealing? (Because you have broken one of God's commands.)
- 6 Why was the Lord Jesus different to any of us? (He never sinned.)
- 7 Who can Jesus help you to say “no” to, when He is your Saviour? (Satan.)
- 8 What is a substitute? (Someone who takes the place of someone else.)
- 9 Why was Jesus your substitute? (He was punished for your sins.)
- 10 If you come to Him, He will be your Saviour and _ _ _ _ _? (Friend.)

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Lesson 3

The Lord Jesus Christ - Teacher

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 7:28-29

John 7:40-52

John 6:66-68

Hebrews 1:1-2

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 3-1 "Arrest Him!"
- Flashcard 3-2 The Lord Jesus Christ - Teacher
- Flashcard 3-3 He brought God's message
- Flashcard 3-4 He is the Truth
- Flashcard 3-5 He has the words of eternal life
- Flashcard 3-6 He is the most important Teacher
- Flashcard 3-7 He should be your Teacher always
- Flashcard 3-8 Is He your Teacher?

Lesson

Flashcard 3-1 - "Arrest Him!"

"Go and arrest that teacher," the religious leaders commanded the guards.

They hurried off to find Him. But He was surrounded by such a big crowd that they could not get near Him. They waited and listened. They found themselves listening very carefully. When they could have got close enough to arrest Him, they didn't do it! Instead they returned empty-handed to their masters.

"Why did you not bring Him?" their masters demanded.

"No-one ever spoke the way this man does," they replied.

This was their reason for not arresting Him. Right now they were in trouble and looked very foolish - all because of this Teacher. He was such a wonderful Teacher, they couldn't arrest Him.

Flashcard 3-2 - The Lord Jesus Christ - Teacher

Who was this Teacher?

Allow the children to answer.

Yes, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't hold classes in a school. He taught out of doors. Sometimes thousands sat on a grassy hillside listening to Him. From time to time He took the twelve disciples aside and taught them on their own. Often people gathered on the seashore to listen to Him and, so that they could hear Him better, the Lord Jesus taught from a boat a little bit from the shore. From time to time, He taught in the Temple, the place where the people went to worship God. Even when He visited a friend's home, the news would spread that He was there. Soon the house would be filled and He would teach the people. He didn't say, "Go away. Give me time to rest." He gladly taught those who wanted to hear.

Wherever He went people crowded to listen to Him. Sometimes they sat listening for a long, long time. They had never heard such a wonderful Teacher. They felt that He really knew what He was talking about. They didn't want to miss a word.

Flashcard 3-3 - He brought God's message

What did the Lord Jesus teach all these people who thronged around Him? He did not teach the sort of things you learn in school - reading, writing, spelling, maths, nature study, geography. What He taught was far more important than any of these - how they could come to know God.

One day the Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

His teaching was very clear - the only way to God is through Jesus Christ.

Why could He teach people how to come to God? Why could He teach them God’s message? Because He had come from God. The word we use to describe people who spoke God’s message is “prophet”. A prophet was someone who spoke on behalf of God - God’s special messenger. Hundreds of years before, God had sent prophets to bring His message to the people, but Jesus Christ was the most wonderful “prophet” of all. He was God’s only Son and all the words He spoke were God’s words. When He spoke, it was God speaking. There never was another teacher like Him. Little wonder the people were so amazed at what He said.

Perhaps you are saying, “I wish I had been there,” or, “I wish I had Him for a teacher.” But you can! The Lord Jesus still speaks to people today. When you read the Bible, He speaks to you. The Lord Jesus used 40 different men to write the Bible and to say to us what He wanted us to know. We even read in the Bible the things He said when He was here on Earth. So if you want the Lord Jesus to be your Teacher, read the Bible. Listen when other people explain it. In that way you will follow the teachings of the Lord Jesus.

Flashcard 3-4 - He is the Truth

Alan had a problem! One day he was watching a really exciting programme about fish, and the strange things they did.

“We’ve all heard the fable of Jonah who was swallowed by a big fish,” the man said.

“Fable?” thought Alan. “Is the story of Jonah not true?”

He was so puzzled he asked his father about it.

“Let’s look at what the Lord Jesus said,” replied his Dad.

Together they read in the Bible where the Lord Jesus said that just as Jonah was inside the fish for three days, so He would be buried for three days (Matthew 12:40).

“So the Lord Jesus knew that the story of Jonah was true,” exclaimed Alan, “and He couldn’t be wrong!”

“Yes, He believed the Old Testament, which was the only part of the Bible they had at that time,” explained his father.

Alan needed to learn that Jesus Christ is the One Who gives us God’s message. If someone tells us something which goes against what Jesus Christ taught, we must believe the Lord Jesus and not the other person. Jesus said, “I am ... the truth” (John 14:6). He is the One Whose teaching we must believe and obey. He is the Teacher Whom we can trust. You will hear many different ideas. How can you know which are right? How can you know what God’s message

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

is? Check what the Bible says. There you have the teaching of the greatest Teacher of all, Jesus Christ. If you believe and obey Him, you can be sure you have found the truth.

Flashcard 3-5 - He has the words of eternal life

The disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ were beginning to understand this too. Day after day as they listened to Him they came to see that His words were really God’s words.

But not everyone believed that. Some people were not willing to obey the words of the Lord Jesus, so they stopped listening.

Others thought, “I don’t believe what He says,” and they stopped following Him.

One day the Lord Jesus asked His disciples an important question, “Will you also go away?”

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Peter spoke up, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

Peter and the disciples knew that Jesus Christ was telling them how to know God. He was teaching them so that they could have God’s life. He was the true Teacher and they were not going to leave Him.

Flashcard 3-6 - He is the most important Teacher

Perhaps in school you don’t always listen very carefully to your teacher. What happens when you don’t understand your schoolwork?

Allow the children to answer.

You don’t do very well in the school tests. Perhaps you get scolded. It is important to listen in school, but it is far, far more important to listen to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will make a big, big difference in your life, if you listen and obey Him. If you listen and obey this Great Teacher, your life will be changed. You will turn from your sin. You will trust Him to forgive you. You will obey Him at home, at school, at play. You will have eternal life. You will live with God forever.

If you listen, but do not obey this great Teacher, you will not live in a way that pleases God. You will not be forgiven. You will not have eternal life. You will not live with God forever.

Are you willing to listen and obey the Lord Jesus? Will you have Him as your Teacher? It is very, very important that you do.

Flashcard 3-7 - He should be your Teacher always

Sometimes it is good to move on to a new class and to have a different teacher. Isn’t it fun to dream of the day when there’ll be no more homework, or classes? You’ll leave school and you’ll not have any more school teachers telling you what to do! But if the

Lord Jesus is your Teacher, you'll never want a change. And you'll never stop learning. He will teach you new, important lessons, even when you are very, very old.

So, if the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, remember to learn from Him each day. Every day read a little from the Bible. Do what the Lord Jesus tells you to do. Try to go places where you will be taught more about the Lord Jesus. This is how you learn from Him.

Flashcard 3-8 - Is He your Teacher?

Sometimes people make a very big mistake. They keep trying to do some of the things the Lord Jesus has taught. They try to love people who do not like them. They try to be kind and honest. But they don't listen at all to other things which the Lord Jesus taught. He never said that doing these things would make you a Christian. He taught that people must first trust Him for eternal life and then live in a way that pleases Him. He taught that the Lord Jesus must be your Saviour, before you can live the way His followers should. Make sure you listen to **all** of His teaching!

Perhaps until now the Lord Jesus has not been your Saviour and Teacher, but you really want Him to be. Are you willing to turn from your sin and to trust Him alone as your Saviour? Are you willing to believe His Word and obey Him? Do you really want Him to be your Saviour and Teacher from today on? You can tell Him that right now. The Bible says, "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Review questions

- 1 Why could the religious leaders not get near Jesus? (There was such a big crowd around Him.)
- 2 Why did they not arrest Jesus then? (They said, "No-one ever spoke the way this Man does." Or: He was such a wonderful Teacher.)
- 3 Name two kinds of places where many people gathered to hear Jesus teaching? (On a hillside; by the sea; in the Temple; in a friend's home.)
- 4 What did Jesus want to teach the people about? (How they could know God.)
- 5 Why was Jesus the most wonderful prophet of all? (He was God's only Son. When He spoke, it was God speaking.)
- 6 How can Jesus teach you? (Read the Bible; listen when someone explains it.)
- 7 When you hear different ideas about the Bible, how can you know what is right? (Read what the Bible says.)

- 8 What did the disciples understand about Jesus? (That He was teaching them how to know God.)
- 9 How can Jesus make a big difference in your life? (He can forgive your sin, help you to obey Him, give you eternal life.)
- 10 Does being kind and good make you a Christian? (No, you need to ask Jesus to be your Saviour.)

Lesson 4

The Lord Jesus Christ - Priest

Scripture for teachers

Hebrews 2:17-18
Hebrews 4:14-16
Hebrews 7:23-28
Hebrews 10:11-12
Luke 22:31-34,54-62

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 4-1 Trouble!
- Flashcard 4-2 You need a “go-between”
- Flashcard 4-3 Long ago there were many priests
- Flashcard 4-4 Jesus Christ is Priest forever
- Flashcard 4-5 He sacrificed Himself
- Flashcard 4-6 He is in God’s presence
- Flashcard 4-7 He prays for His own
- Flashcard 4-8 Is Christ your Priest?

Lesson

Flashcard 4-1 - Trouble!

Alan came in, looking most unhappy. He and Jeanette were visiting their cousins Rosemary and Philip.

“What’s wrong?” asked Jeanette.

“I’ve broken two panes in the glasshouse.”

“Oh no!” exclaimed Philip. “Didn’t Dad tell you not to kick the ball near there?”

“He did,” groaned Alan. “I’m in real trouble. What am I going to do? ... Rosemary, would you tell your Dad what happened?”

There was a long silence. Rosemary felt sorry for Alan. He was in trouble all right. It might help if she broke the news to Dad. She could be a kind of “go-between” and she reckoned Alan needed one just now.

“Right, I’ll tell him,” she agreed.

Flashcard 4-2 - You need a “go-between”

Did you know that you too need a “go-between”? Just as things were not right between Alan and his uncle, things are not right between you and God.

God has commanded in the Bible that you should love God always, with every part of you. But you don’t. Some days you don’t even think about Him.

You do things which displease Him. Your friends, your bike, your toys are more important to you than He is. God has commanded you to love others as yourself. Yet one day in school you scribbled over another boy’s picture, just because you don’t like him. You break God’s commands and this disobedience separates you from God.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

God says in the Bible, “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2). Things are not right between you and God, and you are the one to blame. You need a “go-between” to solve this great problem.

Long, long ago God’s special people, the Jews, had the same problem. They too had disobeyed God and their sin had cut them off from Him. God told them what to do. Some of the men among His people would act as “go-between”.

Flashcard 4-3 - Long ago there were many priests

When the people wanted their sin forgiven they would bring an animal to one of these men. He would kill the animal and it died

instead of the person who had disobeyed God. The blood had to be given, for God had said, “Without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). Without blood being given, there is no forgiveness for sin. Of course the blood of an animal could never really take away a man’s sin. It was a picture of something much more wonderful which God had planned.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

The killing of the animals was called “making sacrifices” and the men who made them were called “priests”. The priests stood between the people and God.

Flashcard 4-4 - Jesus Christ is Priest forever

There were about 20,000 priests by the time the Lord Jesus Christ came to Earth. They were all very busy every day making sacrifices for sin. They didn’t know this, but the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to take the place of every one of them! He came to be the one true Priest forever. He came to be the only “go-between”. He said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). He is the only One Who can bring God and man together. He is the only One Who can solve that great problem of your sin, which separates you from God.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

To be the one true Priest forever the Lord Jesus had to make a sacrifice for sin. He actually came to make the last sacrifice for sin there would ever need to be.

It would have to be a very great sacrifice. What would it be? An animal? No! That kind of sacrifice would not do. The Lord Jesus always knew, even before He came down to Earth, what the sacrifice would be. It would be Himself. He would give His own life. He would bleed and die so that sin could be forgiven.

Flashcard 4-5 - He sacrificed Himself

This is exactly what happened. Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, was nailed to a cross. He died in the place of sinners and took the awful punishment of God which they deserved. He gave His precious blood, His life, so that we could be forgiven.

That was the last sacrifice needed for sin forever. It would never be repeated. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself cried out just before He died, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). The Bible says that He “offered one sacrifice for sins forever” (Hebrews 10:12). He is the only One Who can make things right between you and God. If you come to Him asking for forgiveness, He will forgive you, for He sacrificed Himself for your sin. What a great Priest He is! He is the “go-between” Who meets your needs!

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

Before the Lord Jesus made that last sacrifice for sin, the priests had been kept very busy. Not only did they make sacrifices, they also talked to God on behalf of the people. Once a year the

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Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

most important priest of all, the high priest, went in behind a curtain to a special place where God met with him. While there, the high priest prayed for the people. But when the Lord Jesus died these priests were no longer needed, neither to make sacrifices nor to speak to God for the people.

Jesus Christ, the Priest, was going to speak to God for His people. God raised His Son from the dead and showed that His sacrifice on the cross was all that was needed to take away sin.

The risen Lord Jesus stayed on Earth for forty days. Then up, up, up He went - "into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24).

Flashcard 4-6 - He is in God's presence

There in Heaven this wonderful Priest prays for His people. He is right where God is, and He prays all the time for those who are His.

Isn't it wonderful to know that there with God is One Who understands us? We have already learned that He became a man. Now in Heaven He is still God and man. He knows what it is to be tired, hungry, in pain. He understands our problems, our disappointments, how hard we find it to do right. He knows exactly how to pray for His own. We can be sure that God will hear and answer His prayers, for He is God's only Son. He had made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

We need the Lord Jesus to pray for us for we have a great enemy. God's great enemy and our enemy, Satan, wants to stop people from following Jesus Christ. He tried to stop Peter. Satan got Peter to tell the Lord Jesus that He would not die. He got Peter to curse and swear and say that he didn't know Jesus Christ.

Flashcard 4-7 - He prays for His own

Yet later Peter wept over what he had done. He became a great preacher and told many, many people about Jesus Christ. Indeed one day Peter was killed because he was a follower of Jesus Christ. Why did Satan fail?

One day the Lord Jesus had told Peter the secret, "Peter, Satan wants to get you, but I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail" (from Luke 22:31-32).

Peter belonged to the Lord Jesus, and the Lord Jesus prayed for him.

This is why boys and girls who belong to the Lord Jesus don't give up when things get difficult. Their Priest, the Lord Jesus, is praying for them all the time. This is why those who are true Christians come to Him and tell Him they are sorry when they let Him down. This is why each one who is truly trusting the Lord

Jesus to take away his sin can be sure of going to Heaven. All the time, the Lord Jesus is praying for His own. His prayers cannot fail.

Flashcard 4-8 - Is Christ your Priest?

We started with the great problem of our sin and our need for a “go-between”, Someone to make things right between us and God. Jesus Christ is the only One Who can do that. Is He your Priest? Have you believed that He sacrificed Himself for your sin? If you really want to stop living for yourself and start living for God, trust Him today. Thank Him for making such a great sacrifice to take away your sin. Ask Him to make you right with God. The Bible says, “He is ... able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him” (Hebrews 7:25). If you truly trust Him, you can be sure your sin is gone. You can be sure that He has brought you and God together. You can be sure He is your Priest and that He is praying to God for you.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Review questions

- 1 You need a “go-between”, between you and God because ... (... things are not right between you and God.)
- 2 What did people have to do to have their sins forgiven, before Jesus died on the cross? (Bring an animal to the priest to be sacrificed.)
- 3 How did Jesus solve the sin problem? (He gave His life for our sins.)
- 4 What did Jesus cry out just before He died? (“It is finished!”)
- 5 Why did the priests not need to sacrifice animals after that? (Because Jesus was the last sacrifice that was ever needed.)
- 6 What can Jesus do for you, if you come to Him? (Forgive your sins, make things right between you and God.)
- 7 How long did Jesus stay on earth after He rose from the dead? (Forty days.)
- 8 What does Jesus do in Heaven? (He prays for His people.)
- 9 What does our enemy, Satan, want us to do? (Stop following Jesus.)
- 10 Why does God answer the prayers Jesus prays? (Because He is God’s Son; He made the perfect sacrifice for sin.)

Lesson 5

The Lord Jesus Christ - King

Scripture for teachers

Luke 1:32-33
Philippians 2:1-11
Colossians 1:13
John 18:36
Revelation 7:14-17
Hebrews 1:8-14

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 5-1 “What sort of King?”
- Flashcard 5-2 There are two kingdoms
- Flashcard 5-3 The Lord Jesus Christ rules in lives
- Flashcard 5-4 He changes lives
- Flashcard 5-5 As King, He cares for His own
- Flashcard 5-6 He rules over all
- Flashcard 5-7 He is King forever
- Flashcard 5-8 Is He your King?

Lesson

Flashcard 5-1 - "What sort of King?"

"He'll soon destroy these Romans who have taken over our land, and we won't have to pay them taxes ever again."

"He'll be a great king, and rule from Jerusalem. No army will ever be too strong for Him."

"When He becomes king, surely He will give us very important positions. It's all very exciting."

Some of the people who met the Lord Jesus Christ when He was on Earth must have thought like this.

This was their dream, but it was not God's plan. Jesus Christ is King, but He did not come to rule over a country. He did not come to live in a palace and have an army. He came to rule in the lives of people - boys and girls, men and women. All over the world there are people who have trusted Jesus Christ to take their sin away, and they are in His kingdom. He rules in their hearts.

Flashcard 5-2 - There are two kingdoms

There are many people who are not in Jesus Christ's kingdom. Those who have not trusted Him as Saviour are not in His kingdom. They are in another kingdom, that of Satan, God's great enemy. That is why they find it so easy to think unkind things about other people, to tell a lie to get out of trouble. If you are in this kingdom, you cannot get yourself out of it. You need someone stronger than Satan to rescue you. The only One Who can rescue you is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is more powerful than Satan. He died so that He could set people free from Satan's kingdom.

Today He is alive, and can rescue you. If you really want to be saved from Satan's kingdom and be in Jesus Christ's kingdom, ask Him to rescue you. The moment you trust Him He will rescue you, He will take away your sin so that you can be in His kingdom. Then He will start to rule in your life. What does this mean?

Alan was beginning to understand what it meant.

Flashcard 5-3 - The Lord Jesus Christ rules in lives

There was a boy called Geoff in Alan's class. He often made things difficult for Alan. When the teacher's back was turned, Geoff punched Alan, pulled his hair or made faces at him.

One day Alan was drawing a picture of a battleship. It was very good. But when Alan came into the classroom after lunch the picture had disappeared. He couldn't find it anywhere and nobody knew anything about it. But Alan knew from the sneering look in Geoff's eyes that he knew something about it.

The following Saturday, Alan and Jeanette were walking by the river.

“Hey, that’s Geoff’s bike.”

Alan stopped and looked. It was Geoff’s bike, for further down the river Geoff was fishing.

Thoughts flooded into Alan’s mind. “Now’s your chance ... hide the bicycle ... take the horn ... throw a stone into the water and ruin his fishing.”

But wait a minute! If Jesus Christ is Alan’s King, He, and not Alan, is in charge of how Alan treats other people. Alan knew that the Bible said, “Do not repay wrong with wrong” (from 1 Peter 3:8-9). So he walked on. Alan obeyed his King.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 5-4 - He changes lives

Jeanette had trusted Jesus Christ as her Saviour, so she was in the kingdom of the Lord Jesus. But nobody could get a word out of her. She was in a bad mood because Mother had said she was not allowed to stay overnight in her friend’s house. She ate her dinner without looking at or speaking to anyone. She left the table and went to her bedroom, having made up her mind that she was not going to help with the dishes.

If Jesus Christ is King of Jeanette’s life, things should be different, for He should be in charge of how she behaves at home. What changes would there be if she obeyed Him?

Allow the children to make suggestions.

Yes, she would accept what her mother said, she wouldn’t sulk and she’d help with the dishes! When the Lord Jesus is your King He takes charge of your behaviour, your friendships, the places you go, the thoughts you think. As you read the Bible you discover how your King wants you to live. Jeanette needed to ask the Lord Jesus to forgive her and to help her to be obedient to Him.

Flashcard 5-5 - As King, He cares for His own

Long, long ago people believed it was very important to have a good king. They looked to him to keep them safe if an enemy attacked. They knew that he would make sure they had enough food.

But Jesus Christ is the most wonderful king. He truly looks after each boy and girl, man and woman who is in His kingdom. He protects them from danger. Nothing will happen to them, except He allows it. Sometimes He does allow difficult things to come into their lives, but He promises that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28). Sometimes they cannot understand why these sad and difficult things happen, but they can be sure that our King knows why. They can be sure

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Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

everything will work out for good. He makes sure each one has all they need. If the Lord Jesus is in charge of your life, you have a great and wonderful King who looks after you while you play, work or sleep.

Flashcard 5-6 - He rules over all

But Jesus Christ isn't only King in the hearts and lives of people, He is also King of kings. He is King over all the rulers and governments in the world. Can you think of some of the greatest nations?

Allow the children to answer.

We think that the rulers of these countries are great and strong and have a lot of power. But when you compare them with the Lord Jesus, they are little, weak and have no power. They rule only for as long as the King of kings allows them. He is in charge. Only what He allows will happen. He is King over everybody, although many people don't yet know it. He is working out His special, wonderful plan and no-one can stop Him.

Many people do not believe that Jesus Christ is King of kings. Kings and governments think they rule the world, they do not know that He is King over all. There are even boys and girls who do not think He is important. But one day everyone will know that He is King of kings.

Flashcard 5-7 - He is King forever

One day (we don't know when it will be) Jesus Christ will come back to rule the Earth. Every person who has ever lived will see the Lord Jesus Christ. They will know that He is King over all.

Proud rulers have boasted, "I am the most powerful," or, "I am the greatest."

People have said, "The Bible is not true."

Boys and girls have said, "I don't want Jesus in my life".

Yet all will have to bow before the King of kings. The Bible says, "Every knee should bow ... and ... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). Then Jesus Christ will show that He has power over all His enemies, for Satan and all those who are in Satan's kingdom will be punished for ever and ever.

Flashcard 5-8 - Is He your King?

But everyone who has had the Lord Jesus Christ ruling in their lives will live with Him for ever and ever. Won't it be wonderful to be with all the people, from all over the world and from different centuries, who have loved the Lord Jesus. But the most wonderful

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

thing of all will be to see our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to live with Him. We will be able to sing His praises and thank Him for all that He has done. There will be no sin, or sadness, or pain or death. Everything will be perfect and beautiful.

It is very, very important that the Lord Jesus should be your King now. Today will you trust Him to save you from Satan's kingdom and bring you into His? In your heart will you say to the Lord Jesus, "I don't want to be in Satan's kingdom any longer. Please take me out of it and take away my sin. I want You to take charge of my life"? Then He will be your King for ever.

Review questions

- 1 Jesus did not come to rule over a country. Where does He rule? (In your life, if you have trusted Him as Saviour.)
- 2 If you have not trusted Jesus as Saviour, whose kingdom are you in? (Satan's kingdom.)
- 3 What kinds of things should Jesus be in charge of in your life, if He is your Saviour? (How you treat others, obeying your parents, your friendships, etc.)
- 4 How will you discover how Jesus wants you to live? (By reading the Bible.)
- 5 Why did people long ago believe it was important to have a good king? (To protect them from enemies.)
- 6 If Jesus is your King, how does He look after you? (Protects you, doesn't allow anything to happen to you unless He allows it.)
- 7 Who can stop Jesus working out His wonderful plan? (No-one.)
- 8 What will everyone have to do one day, when Jesus comes back to rule the earth? (Bow before Him.)
- 9 Why is it important to have Jesus as your King? (To save you from Satan's kingdom and bring you into His.)
- 10 For how long will Jesus be your King, if you belong to Him? (For ever.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).