

Leader's Guide

Let's Explore Our Faith Lesson 4 • God the Son

Aims:

- To explore what the Bible teaches about Jesus' visit to earth
- To understand the unique person and ministry of Jesus Christ
- To respond in gratitude for Jesus' coming to earth

Preparation:

- Read through the *Article of Faith 1.c.* (concerning God the Son). Note questions that come to mind. Any question(s) you have may be the same one(s) your students ask.
- Read the Scriptural basis for the *Article of Faith 1.c.*: Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14,18; Acts 2:22,24-32; Romans 1:3,4; 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:18,19; Ephesians. 1:19-22; Colossians 3:4; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 4:15; 7:25; 1 Peter 1:18; 2:22,24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1,2
- Review the *Article* again. Highlight the connections between the key points of the lesson and the Scripture passages referenced.
- Prepare the student lesson.

Needed:

- Student workbook, Bible and pencil for each student
- Copy(ies) of *MC Constitution* with *Articles of Faith and Practice*
- Marker board, markers and eraser
- Paperclips

Getting Started:

Begin your class with a short prayer. Ask God to help students understand what He wants to say to them about who Jesus is and why He came to earth.

Distribute *Student Workbooks*, Bibles and pencils. Students answer first question on page 1, telling about a famous person they would like to meet. **What famous person—still living—would you most like to meet?** Write responses on the marker board. **What makes them famous? Why would you like to meet them?** Volunteers answer. **Has anyone ever met his or her famous person? Did your famous person—or another famous person—come to your town?** If yes, guide the discussion to find out the circumstances. Where was this person before the visit. How did he/she arrive in town? What did he/she do while in town? What is this famous person doing now? Is he/she still famous in your town? Be prepared to share your own story of meeting a renowned person. Emphasize all the preparation and activity that went into having them come to town.

Direct students' attention to the "greatest visit" statement. Have the students solve the coded message. (*Answers: man, moon, God, earth*) **That's an odd statement. What could it mean?** Volunteers share answers. During discussion make the point that walking on the moon was pretty incredible. But more incredible is that fact that God came to earth. Help students understand that the visit of Jesus Christ to the earth was the greatest visit ever by a famous individual—though He obviously wasn't "famous" at the time! But Jesus' visit to earth changed the course of history. Why? Because Jesus is the center of the plan God invented for our salvation.

Study:

Direct students' attention to the *Article of Faith* paragraph in the workbook. Read *Article 1.c.* from the Constitution one phrase at a time as students follow along. Have students circle any words that are new to them. Write the words on the board. (Words printed in **bold** are listed in the *Glossary*.) Take time for students to discuss possible meanings for new terms they identify and look those up in the *Glossary*. Then discuss the paragraph, noting any concepts that may require more explanation during the study time.

Divide the class into four groups. Assign each group one of the time periods of Jesus' visit here on earth to research. If your class is small, you may assign the sections to individual students or pairs of students. Ask students

to look up the Bible verses, read them and fill in the section blanks using words from the Word Bank. Help students in locating Bible verses or understanding meaning, if necessary. (Optional: Have the Bible verses for each section already printed on a sheet or on cards to save time in looking them up.)

When all the students have finished researching their sections, read through each section. The students who researched that particular section should give the answers, while the rest of the groups fill in the blanks of their workbooks. As each section is read, discuss what it tells us about who Jesus is and what He did. Help the class with any answers they do not give correctly or do not seem to understand.

Before Jesus Came to Earth. (Answers: *Word, only, one, God, Son*) Make the point that it is important to know who we are talking about when we say *Jesus*. Many people don't believe what the Bible teaches about God the Son, and make up their own definition of who Jesus is. Jesus is God—and as God, He has no beginning or end. And as the second person of the Trinity, He had a big part in creating the world. So Jesus existed before He was born as Mary's baby.

When Jesus Arrived on Earth. (Answers: *flesh, father, Spirit, baby, human, divine, tired, sleep, thinking, Abraham, life*) Remind students that Jesus' arrival on earth, being born as a little baby, fulfilled several Old Testament prophecies. He must have loved us very much to give up being with God the Father in heaven. Also emphasize that we can believe Jesus was both God and man because the Bible teaches this, and His words and actions show this.

While Jesus Lived on Earth. (Answers: *sin, sacrifice, miracles, signs, power, place, world, raised, body*) Highlight the fact that Jesus' perfect life showed us we needed a Savior. He never did anything wrong His whole life, and we do wrong things daily. No one but Jesus could have been the perfect sacrifice for sins. Also, emphasize that by what He said and did, Jesus basically taught us to wholeheartedly love God and love others. Finally, stress the importance of believing Jesus rose from the dead. If we don't believe His resurrection is true, then Jesus is just another man—not God, the Bible can't be trusted, and we have no hope of living with God forever.

Since Jesus Left Earth. (*sky, cloud, right, feet, angels, powers, throne, people, speaks, time, hope*) It's important for your students to understand what Jesus is doing now so that they don't feel alone and helpless as God's children. God kept His promise to send salvation through Jesus, and He will keep His promise for Jesus to come again and take us to be with Him forever. We can trust Him.

Let's Review:

Have students complete the exercise, matching the statement about Jesus Christ to the time period it fits best. Encourage students to do the review without looking back through the lesson. (Answers: 2, 3, 4, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 4, 3, 4, and 3)

Then focus on the *Scripture to Learn*. The Bible verse is very familiar to many. Read the verse together. Then ask for volunteers to tell what this verse means in their own words. Summarize the verse, **John 3:16 says God loves me THIS much—He gave His one and only Son, Jesus to be born, live, die and rise again on this earth, so that you and I don't have to be destroyed because of our sin. Instead, by believing in Him we can have a whole and lasting life. What other words describe this kind of love?** Allow responses. **How does it make you feel to be loved that much?** Allow responses. God loves us very much and wants us to be saved. We should have an attitude of gratitude because of God's great love. Guide the conversation so that students understand that the ultimate "thank you" to Jesus is accepting His gift of salvation, and living a life pleasing to God.

My Response:

Allow students to work with a partner to complete the *My Response* section of their workbook. Distribute a paper clip to each pair of students. Demonstrate how to make and use a spinner with the paper clip and a pencil. Have students take turns spinning the paper clip and answering the questions on the circle.

Lead your class in prayer, thanking Jesus for His great love, His huge sacrifice, and the awesome hope we have in Him.

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What famous person—still living—would you most like to meet?

Write or draw your answer

What makes them famous? Why would you like to meet them?

The Greatest Visit by a Famous Person

Use this simple code to complete the saying below.

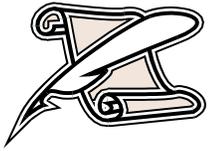
1 = a 2 = d 3 = e 4 = G 5 = h
6 = m 7 = n 8 = o 9 = r 0 = t

More impressive than $\frac{6}{6} \frac{1}{1} \frac{7}{7}$ walking on the $\frac{6}{6} \frac{8}{8} \frac{8}{8} \frac{7}{7}$

is $\frac{4}{4} \frac{8}{8} \frac{2}{2}$ walking on the $\frac{3}{3} \frac{1}{1} \frac{9}{9} \frac{0}{0} \frac{5}{5}$!

God did, in fact, come to the earth for a visit. Of course, He is always here invisibly in the person of *God the Holy Spirit*. But more than 2,000 years ago, God visited the earth visibly in the person of *God the Son, Jesus Christ!*

And just as a town is often changed (even for a little while) by the visit of a famous person, so the earth was changed forever by Jesus' visit!



Article of Faith

The third part of our *Article of Faith* about God explains several of the important truths that the Bible teaches about God the Son, Jesus Christ.

We believe in the **deity** of the Lord Jesus Christ; in His **eternal generation** from the Father; in His **incarnation** by which He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, thus uniting the divine and human natures in their completeness into the one unique person of Jesus Christ; in His sinless life and miraculous works; in His **vicarious** death to make **atonement** for the sins of the world; in His bodily **resurrection** and **ascension** to the right hand of the Father; in His **sovereign** power and lordship; in His present **mediatorial** ministry as the believer's **Advocate**; in His **imminent** coming in power and glory.

We began this class by thinking of a famous person we'd like to meet. What if your famous person (or another well-known person) even visited your town? You would probably remember the time before the visit, the arrival, the visit itself, and the time after the visit. The statements in our *Article* about Jesus Christ discuss those same parts of His visit to earth.

Use your Bible to look up the verses for each section. Fill in the blanks based on what you read in God's Word.

Before Jesus Came to Earth ° John 1:1, 18; John 10:30; Titus 2:13

WORD BANK: God one only Son Word

1. We believe in His **deity**.

Jesus is sometimes called "the _____," or "God the _____ Son." He has always existed with the Father.

He is _____ with the Father. He is our great _____ and Savior. *Jesus is God!*

2. We believe in His **eternal generation** from the Father.

Just as the Father has always been the Father, Jesus has always been the _____.

_____. Their Father/Son relationship has always been and will always be.

When Jesus Arrived on Earth • Matthew 1:18, 8:24, 9:4; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:14, 4:6, 8:58, 20:31; Romans 1:3-4

WORD BANK: Abraham baby **divine** father flesh human
life sleep Spirit thinking tired

1. We believe in His **incarnation**.

Jesus (the “Word”) became _____ (a human being) to live among human beings just like us.

2. We believe in His virgin birth.

Jesus had a human mother, but no human _____. The Holy _____ caused the Virgin Mary to have a real, human _____. That baby was Jesus. But unlike all other humans, He was born without sin.

3. We believe in His two natures united in one person.

Jesus is both completely _____ (*He is a descendant of David*) and completely _____ (*He is still God*). Being both God and man made Jesus special. There has never been another person like Him.

How do we know Jesus was completely human? The Bible tells us He became hungry, _____, and thirsty. And just like us, His body needed rest, so He went to _____. But Jesus was special. He was also completely God. How do we know? The Bible tells us He could heal all sorts of diseases, and knew what people were _____. Jesus allowed people to worship Him, and He created the world. The Bible also says that Jesus exists before _____ was born. Without a doubt, Jesus is the Son of God; everyone who believes in Him will have eternal _____.

While Jesus Lived on Earth • John 3:16; Acts 2:22, 24, 32; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22, 24, 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2

WORD BANK: body miracles place power raised sacrifice
signs sin world

1. We believe in His sinless life.

Jesus never committed even a single _____. He never did anything wrong in His entire life. Being sinless was necessary for Him to be the perfect _____ for sins.

2. We believe in His miraculous works.

Jesus did many _____, wonders, and _____, all of which demonstrated the _____ of God. These included actions such as healing sick people instantly, walking on water, and calming a storm. Jesus Christ did things that were humanly impossible.

3. We believe in His **vicarious** death to make **atonement** for sins.

Jesus Himself committed no sins, but He died in the _____ of all sinners to pay the penalty for their sins. Jesus died for sins once for all, as the sacrifice for the sins of the whole _____.

4. We believe in His bodily **resurrection**.

After Jesus died, God _____ Him from the dead. His physical _____ came back to life.

Since Jesus Left Earth • Acts 1:9; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:21-22; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8, 7:25; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 John 2:1-2

WORD BANK: angels cloud feet hope people powers
right sky speaks throne time

1. We believe in His **ascension** to the right hand of the Father.

Jesus left the earth by being taken up into the _____, until a _____ hid him from sight. He is now at the _____ hand of God the Father.

2. We believe in His **sovereign** power and lordship.

Following His **resurrection**, God the Father put all things under His _____, placing Him far above all _____, authorities, and _____. Jesus will reign on His _____ forever.

3. We believe in His **mediatorial** ministry as the believer's **Advocate**.

Jesus prays for His _____. He is the One who _____ to God the Father in our defense.

4. We believe in His **imminent** coming in power and glory.

Jesus could return at any _____. We wait for His coming, which is our blessed _____!



Let's Review.

Wow! We have looked at a lot of Scripture while studying Jesus' visit to earth. Let's take a few moments to review.

Read each statement below. Look back through this lesson to decide which part of Jesus' visit the statement fits in best. Put the matching number on the line. The first one is done for you.

1. Before Jesus Came to Earth
2. When Jesus Arrived on Earth
3. While Jesus Lived on Earth
4. Since Jesus Left Earth

 2

Jesus Christ had a human mother, but no human father.

 Jesus Christ did things that were humanly impossible.

 Jesus Christ speaks in our defense as the One who goes between God and man.

 Jesus Christ, sometimes called "the Word," has always existed with the Father.

 Jesus Christ has always been the Son.

 Jesus Christ became a human being.

 Jesus Christ died in place of sinners, to pay their penalty for sin.

 Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of God the Father.

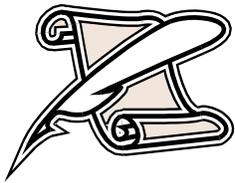
 Jesus Christ is both completely flesh and completely divine.

 Jesus Christ reigns over all!

 Jesus Christ never committed even a single sin.

 Jesus Christ could return to the earth in victory at any time.

 Jesus Christ came back to life in His body after He died.



Scripture to Learn.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

My Response.



Make a spinner with a paper clip and pencil. Spin the paper clip so it points to a question. Share with a partner how you would answer the question.

