

## LESSON 1: Who is Jesus?

### CONTENTS OF LESSON:

1. The names and titles of Jesus tell us about who he is and what he came to do:
  - I. Jesus means 'God saves'. It tells us that Jesus is God and that his mission was to save mankind from their sins. [CCC 430-32] No one else can save us. [CCC 432] We receive his saving help by believing in Jesus. [CCC 161]
  - II. Christ means 'anointed' (in Hebrew 'Messiah') Prophets, priests and kings were anointed in the Old Testament times. This meant that they were consecrated to God for a special mission. Jesus was anointed as prophet, priest and king. [CCC 436]
  - III. Son of God: At Jesus' baptism the Father called Jesus his 'beloved Son'. He is God's only Son and is *born* of God, not created as we are. [CCC 444]
  - IV. Lord (YHWH) shows that Jesus is truly God. [CCC 455]
  - V. Son of David: He is the king promised to David whose kingdom will last forever.
  - VI. Son of Man: Jesus used this title for himself. It refers to God's word to Daniel about the one who will come in glory from heaven. It also tells us that Jesus is a man. [Cf. [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)]
  - VII. Emmanuel means 'God with us.'
  - VIII. Rabbi: Jesus was recognized as a religious teacher. [CCC 481]
  - IX. The New Adam: While Adam brought death, Jesus brought us life. [CCC 402]
  - X. Word of God: The Father spoke to us through Jesus. [CCC 102]
2. We respond to Jesus by acknowledging our own sinfulness and need of him and believing in him and his saving love. We use the 'Jesus Prayer'.



REFERENCES: Matthew 1:21, 23; 3:7. Mark 2:7; 14:62. John 1:1, 29, 38; 3:17-18. Luke 1:33. Acts 34:12. 1Cor 15:22.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, Bibles, pencils; objects belonging to a student for starter.

### I. STARTER:

*[Before the class ask a student to secretly give you some of his/her personal belongings to use as 'clues' to discover his identity. E.g. A keychain, pen, coin, used juice carton etc.]*

- Today we are going to use clues to find out something. When there has been a robbery, the police detectives look around for clues like footprints, or cigarette stubs. Once they have found the clues, they think about them and see if they can find out something more about the robber.
- Let's see if you can tell me something about these clues. Can you tell me anything about the person they belong to? *[Allow the students to examine the objects, discuss and make suggestions. Eg. This person has a cycle. This is a coin used in the UAE. His father may be working there.]*

### II. DEVELOPMENT:

1. Today we are going to be like detectives and find out more about Jesus, by looking at his names. We will start by looking at the name 'Jesus'. Where did this name come from? Did Mary choose it for her son? Or was Jesus named after one of his relatives? *[The name was given by an angel to both Mary and Joseph separately.]*

*[Give out the handouts and do the top part together, as a class. The Bible verses are read and then the answers brought out:]*

1. Jesus means 'God saves' in Hebrew. It tells us that he is God, since his name contains the name God. It also tells us that he came to save the world. This was his mission.
2. The Bible tells us that no one else can save us. Only God can forgive sins, so only Jesus, who is God, had the authority to wipe away our sins and make us worthy to go to God.
3. We have to believe in Jesus. God has done everything necessary to save us, but our part is to accept Jesus and his saving help. (We learnt that believing is to accept and obey.)

2. Now we will look at the other names and titles of Jesus and see if we can find out what they mean. Find the names in the maze and circle them. After we check the names together, try to match them to the correct clue. Draw lines with a pencil, so that you can correct it if necessary. *[Students work on the second half of the handout in pairs or groups of three. After about 10 minutes go over the names found. The students then try and connect the names with the clues. Ask different groups to give one answer each. Bring out:]*

1. The name **Jesus** tells us that he came to save mankind.
2. **Emmanuel** means ‘God with us’. We realize that God has come to live with us. This is something that had never ever happened before.
3. **Son of God**: At the Baptism of Jesus, God’s voice was heard by those present “This is my beloved Son!” Jesus is the only Son of God. He was not created like us, but is ‘born’ of the Father.
4. A **Rabbi** was a religious teacher. The people recognized Jesus as a rabbi, because he taught them about God.
5. **New Adam**: Adam brought death, but Jesus brought life. (*We have already studied this earlier.*)
6. **Word of God**: The Father spoke to us by sending Jesus. Jesus once said, “If you have seen me you have seen the Father!”
7. **Son of David**: Long ago God had promised King David that one of his descendants would reign as king forever. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that her Son was this king.
8. **Christ** means anointed. In the Old Testament times, prophets, priests and kings were anointed with oil to do their task. (Just as a prefect is given a badge when he takes up his task.) Jesus was anointed by the Father by pouring the Holy Spirit on him. His mission was to be a prophet, a priest and a king.
9. **Messiah** is the Hebrew name for Christ. The Jews were waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah, who would save them from their enemies. But when Jesus came, they didn’t recognize him, because they didn’t realize that he came to save us spiritually, not from human enemies.
10. **Lord** is the word used instead of the holy name ‘YHWH’ given to Moses. This tells us that Jesus is God, the same God who had spoken to Moses. At the Last Supper Jesus said, “You call me Lord and Master and that is what I am!”
11. **Son of Man**: Jesus called himself this many times. This shows us that he is a man. Long before, the prophet Daniel had said that ‘The Son of Man’ would come in glory from heaven. Jesus was showing that he was the one Daniel was talking about.
12. **Lamb of God**: John the Baptist pointed out to Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” We remember the Passover lamb that the Israelites killed in Egypt to save them from death.

### 3. INTERIORISATION/PRAYER:

- Let us be quiet now and think of Jesus who came to be one of us, and to save us. He is our Saviour, but he is also our King and Lord. He has done everything for us, but we must realize that we need him. We must ask his forgiveness and believe in him. Let us say the ‘Jesus Prayer’ which is said by many Christians around the world. *[The ‘Jesus Prayer’ (given in the handout) is said 3 times.]*

### 4. ACTIVITY:

*[In groups, the students choose a name/title of Jesus and mime it (without words). The others try to guess which name is being dramatized. Eg. RABBI: A teacher teaching students. JESUS: Someone saving a person who is drowning.]*

HOME ASSIGNMENT: ⇌ Read the handout.