

In the Beginning...Jesus

Scope and Sequence



- **Target Grade: 3rd**
- **Intended Use: Sunday School**
- **Lessons: 40**
- **ESV**

In the Beginning...Jesus is a chronological study for children of redemptive history. Throughout the study, students use weekly clues, which are placed on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* Banner, to discover the answer to the mystery of who killed Jesus and why. In this study, students will memorize two longer passages of Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-12 and John 1:1-18.

Lesson 1: What Happened Here?

The Crucifixion (Matthew 26-27; Luke 23; John 19)

The Bible is one complete, true story that reveals the solution to the greatest mystery of all—the death of Jesus on the cross.

This first lesson sets the stage for this study by revealing a mystery. Students will be solving this mystery throughout the study as they ponder the question: “Who killed Jesus and why?”

Memory Verse: None

Lesson 2: Back to the Beginning

Post-Resurrection Reactions (Luke 24)

The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus’ death on the cross. Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.

The first clue in the mystery is revealed as students learn that the Bible is not simply a collection of verses, people, and events tossed together at random. All of the Bible points to God’s plan for His people. Jesus is the key to understanding the mystery at hand. Students discover in this lesson that, in order to find more clues to this mystery, they’ll need to start at the beginning of the Bible.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:3a

Lesson 3: God Creates His Image Bearer

Creation of Man (Genesis 1-2)

God created man in His image so man might enjoy a special relationship with Him forever.

Students discover what it means to be made in the image of God and why it is important. They will study the perfect relationship that God created between Himself and man at the beginning of creation, and the value of this relationship.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:3b

Lesson 4: The Fall, the Curse, and the Promise

The Fall and Its Effects (Genesis 2-3)

God is right to punish sin with death. God has a plan for solving the problem of sin and death.

As students study the fall of man in this lesson, they will discover that the desire of Adam and Eve to be independent from God and disobey Him is sin and deserves the punishment of death. The effect of their actions on human relationships with God is examined.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:4

Lesson 5: God's Mercy and Abel's Response of Faith

Cain and Abel (Genesis 3-4)

God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.

In this lesson, students will discover the wonder of God's mercy as He provides a way for sinners to come to Him through the requirement of a covering for sin. They will also see why we are all born sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. As students look at Abel's story, they will see that it was by faith and trust in God that Abel was considered a friend of God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5a

Lesson 6: God Judges the World, but Has Favor on Noah

The Flood (Genesis 6-8)

God is grieved by sin, and is right to judge sinners.

After Cain and Abel, man's wickedness increased on the earth. The flood was God's righteous judgment against these sinners. But God also revealed His grace through the unmerited favor He showed to Noah and his family by providing a way for them to escape this judgment. Students will see that Noah trusted God's one way of salvation from the punishment for sin, and that God is pleased when sinners trust Him.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5b

Lesson 7: God Scatters the Nations and Chooses One Man for Himself

Babel and the Call of Abram (Genesis 9-12)

Man is sinful and is in rebellion against God. God alone is the Sovereign Ruler—no one who opposes Him can win.

After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth, but man was still sinful and rebellious toward God. The people of Shinar thought they could oppose the one true God, but no one can oppose God and win. Near the end of this lesson, students will be introduced to Abraham, a man chosen by God. It is through this one man that God will make a great nation to bless the world.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:6

Lesson 8: God's Covenant with Abram

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12)

God will accomplish all His plans.

God chose Abram to make one great nation to bless the world. In this lesson, students will study the binding covenant made between God and Abram. Even though it was difficult, by faith Abram obeyed God's call and depended on God's faithfulness. Students will explore some events in Abram's life and see that, despite man's obstacles, God's plans will not be thwarted.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:7a

Lesson 9: God Gives Abraham and Sarah a Child of Promise

Promise and Birth of Isaac (Genesis 12-21)

God's promises are received through faith in God.

In His covenant with Abraham, God had promised a multitude of offspring. Yet in their old age, Abraham and Sarah still did not have any children. But God is faithful and gave Abraham and Sarah the child He promised. This lesson is designed to help students see that God is completely trustworthy.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:7b

Lesson 10: God Provides Abraham with a Right Offering

Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)

Faith in God is demonstrated through obedience to God.

In the last lesson, the students learned that God made a binding covenant with Abraham and his son, Isaac. In this lesson, students will study the need of God's people to have a right covering for sin. Abraham responded to this need in obedient faith. Just as God did with the ram and Abraham, students will discover that what God requires of His people to cover their sin, He graciously provides.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:8a

Lesson 11: God's Providence and His Choice of Jacob

Abraham's Descendants Grow (Genesis 22-25)

God directs people and events to bring about His purposes.

In previous lessons, students learned that God promised to make Abraham a great nation that would bless the world. In this lesson, students will see that after the death of Abraham, God continued His covenant promise through Isaac. And after Isaac, He chose to continue His covenant through Jacob. As they study the descendants of Abraham, they will be searching for evidence of God's sovereignty in the lives of these men to bring about His plan.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:8b

Lesson 12: Jacob's Deceit and God's Design

Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28)

Man's sin cannot thwart God's design.

This lesson continues the study of God's faithfulness to the descendants of Abraham. Before his birth, God chose Jacob to inherit the covenantal promise made to Abraham and Isaac. Though neither Jacob nor his brother Esau deserved God's special promises, God chose to be merciful to Jacob. Jacob deceitfully stole his brother's birthright, but students will see that sin cannot thwart God's plans.

Memory Verses: Review Isaiah 53:3-8

Lesson 13: God Preserves Israel in the Land of Egypt

Life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

God causes evil to serve His good purposes.

The study of Abraham's descendants continues as students learn how God changed Jacob's name to Israel, therefore making his sons the beginning of the nation of Israel. Students will see God's eye watching and His hand working in the lives of Jacob and his sons to preserve His people in Egypt in faithfulness to His covenant.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:9

Lesson 14: The LORD Chooses Moses to Be His Prophet

Moses' Birth, The Burning Bush (Exodus 1-3)

God's name, "I AM," points to His uniqueness.

God prospered His people in Egypt during the time of Joseph, but over time the people of Israel became enslaved by the Egyptians. But God's plans will not be thwarted. God chose Moses to be His prophet, through whom He would deliver His people. God revealed His name to Moses at the burning bush, giving us a glimpse into the plan of deliverance for His people.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:10a

Lesson 15: The Plagues and the Passover

The Plagues and the Passover (Exodus 3-12)

God is sovereign over all things—even the hearts of men.

As we learned in the previous lesson, God appointed Moses as His prophet to deliver His people from Egypt. Now God carries out the beginning of His plan through His right judgment delivered through the plagues and His mercy to Israel through the Passover. Students will see that God is almighty. No one can oppose Him and succeed. Emphasis is placed on the Passover and its foreshadowing of the future Passover Lamb.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:10b

Lesson 16: The Exodus

The Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 12-14)

Trusting God is the only way to be saved.

The last lesson demonstrated that God is almighty—no one can oppose Him and succeed. In the next part of God's plan, God is faithful to the people of Israel and delivers them from bondage in Egypt by showing His sovereignty over all creation and parting the Red Sea to create a path of escape. This lesson focuses on the absolute necessity of trusting God as the only means to salvation.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:11

Lesson 17: God's Covenant with Israel

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 15-19)

God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.

After Israel's release from Egypt, God shows He is faithful and good by providing for all the needs of His people. In His desire to have a special relationship with His chosen people, He establishes a covenant with Israel in which He outlines the conditions of His relationship with His treasured people.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12a

Lesson 18: God's Law Is Given to Israel

The 10 Commandments (Exodus 19-20)

God's law is holy, righteous, and good.

The previous lesson introduced God's covenant with Israel. This lesson continues to explore that covenantal relationship as God gives Israel His law. This law described how Israel was to live as a redeemed people of God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12b

Lesson 19: The Blood of the Covenant and the Tabernacle

The Covenant Confirmed (Exodus 24-25)

God's commandments show us that we are sinners and deserve death.

In Lesson 18, students learned how God's commandments described how Israel was to live as the delivered people of God. The commandments also showed the Israelites that they were sinners and deserved death. In this lesson, God seals the covenant with blood, showing Israel its dependence on His mercy and forgiveness. God then introduces the idea of dwelling in the midst of His people in the tabernacle.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12c

Lesson 20: The Tabernacle, Priests, and Sacrifices

The Construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-30)

The holy God desires to dwell with His people.

The previous lesson introduced the tabernacle. This lesson focuses on that topic as God instructs Israel how to worship Him in the tabernacle. Emphasis is placed on how God chose priests to be mediators between God and His sinful people. He commanded the priests to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of their own sins and the sins of the people. On the Day of Atonement, the one high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, foreshadowing the Great High Priest who was to come.

Memory Verses: Review Isaiah 53:3-12

Lesson 21: The Golden Calf and the Renewal of the Covenant

The Golden Calf (Exodus 31-34)

God is merciful and faithful.

The previous lessons introduced students to the binding covenant God made with Israel. However, the Israelites were quick to break God's covenant when they made the golden calf. Students will see that God is right to punish those who break His commands but, because He is merciful and faithful, He renewed His covenant with Israel.

Memory Verses: John 1:1-2

Lesson 22: Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness

Israel's Unbelief (Numbers 11, 13-14, and 21)

God is faithful, merciful, and good.

The faithful God leads the Israelites toward the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But when they arrive, their unbelief in the goodness of God results in a wilderness wandering for 40 years. As the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God remained merciful and faithful to them, even when sending snakes among them, to teach them to depend wholly on Him for salvation.

Memory Verse: John 1:3

Lesson 23: God Leads Israel into the Promised Land

Israel Conquers Jericho and Ai (Portions of Joshua)

God's people must trust and obey Him in all things.

God is faithful to all His promises. He had promised to send Israel a new prophet after Moses. In this lesson, God chooses Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land, and the people of God must trust and obey Him as they enter the Promised Land.

Memory Verse: John 1:4

Lesson 24: God Appoints Judges and Gives Israel a King

The Era of the Judges (Portions of Judges)

God punishes people for their disobedience.

After God gave Israel the Promised Land (Lesson 23), Israel turned to idolatry. In this lesson, God rightfully punishes the people of Israel for their disobedience. And, in His mercy, He appoints judges to deliver His people. However, Israel rejects God's rule and desires a king.

Memory Verse: John 1:5

Lesson 25: God Establishes His Kingdom through David

Davidic Covenant (Portions of 1 and 2 Samuel)

God chose a king after His own heart.

At the end of the previous lesson, the Israelites asked for a king. In this lesson, God gives the Israelites a king after their own heart: Saul. But God rejects Saul and chooses for Israel a king after His heart: David. Another clue to the mystery is revealed as God blesses David and promises to him an everlasting throne on which his offspring will reign forever.

Memory Verse: John 1:6-7

Lesson 26: The Rise and Decline of the Kingdom under Solomon

Solomon's Reign (Portions of 1 Kings)

God is faithful to all His promises.

Picking up where the previous lesson leaves off, this lesson explores how God made Israel into a great nation through the kings, David and Solomon. He instructs Solomon to build a special place of worship, the temple, in Jerusalem. However, though He blessed the kingdom, David and Solomon were still sinners in need of punishment. God brings strife into David's family because of his sin, and Solomon eventually turns away from the one true God. At the end of this lesson, God divides the kingdom of Israel.

Memory Verse: John 1:8

Lesson 27: God's Prophets Foretell Coming Judgment and Deliverance

Various Old Testament Passages

God promised to make a new kind of covenant with His people.

As seen at the end of the previous lesson, God punished His sinful people by dividing them into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. In this lesson, God sends prophets to His people warning them of judgment if they do not repent. He sends enemy nations to take Israel and then Judah into captivity, but He promises to send a new type of King to rule over His people and promises to make a new kind of covenant with them.

Memory Verse: John 1:9

Lesson 28: A Man of Sorrows

Isaiah's Prophecy of the Messiah (Isaiah 53)

God promised His people a new kind of heart.

In the last lesson God had promised His people a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant. In this lesson, students grow closer to solving the mystery as they study Isaiah's foretelling of a Man who would bear the sins of God's people, take upon Himself their punishment, and heal them. God then promises a new kind of heart.

Memory Verse: John 1:10

Lesson 29: God's Anointed One

Various Passages

God promised to send His Anointed One to bring good news to His sinful people.

This lesson shows students that through His prophets, God predicted the re-building of Jerusalem and the temple, and the return of His people. Students will review various events in the Old Testament and review the clues that were revealed to move another step closer to solving the mystery.

Memory Verses: Review John 1:1-10

Lesson 30: The Day of the Lord's Coming

Intertestamental Period (Portions of Malachi and Luke)

God promised to send a messenger to prepare the way for the coming King.

This lesson covers the 400 years that separate the events of the Old and New Testaments, and then leaps into the beginning of the New Testament. God promises to send a messenger to prepare the way for the coming King. John the Baptist is born in fulfillment of this promise.

Memory Verse: John 1:11

Lesson 31: The Promised King and Savior Is Born

Birth of Jesus (Various Gospel Passages)

Jesus was born to a virgin in Bethlehem, fulfilling Old Testament promises.

In the previous lesson, God prepared the way for Jesus with the birth of John the Baptist. This lesson focuses on the birth of Jesus and how His birth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus would be born to a virgin (Mary) and be born in Bethlehem. In this lesson, the clues from previous lessons begin to come together to reveal the answer to the mystery.

Memory Verse: John 1:12

Lesson 32: Jesus: Son of Man

Various Gospel Passages

Jesus became fully human.

This lesson focuses on Jesus' humanity. Students will study why Christ needed to be fully human to save God's people. They will also study Jesus' family tree to see how His family fulfills more Old Testament promises about the Messiah.

Memory Verse: John 1:13

Lesson 33: Jesus: Son of God

Various Passages from John

Jesus is fully God AND fully man.

The previous lesson focused on the humanity of Christ. This lesson focuses on the divinity of Christ. Students will learn how Jesus' divinity fulfilled several Old Testament promises. They will also discover that, because Jesus is God, He is able to do what no one else could do—save sinners. Most importantly, this lesson teaches that Jesus is the only way sinners may be saved.

Memory Verse: John 1:14a

Lesson 34: Jesus: Perfect Law-Keeper

Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)

Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all others have failed.

As the last two lessons showed, Jesus is fully God and became fully human, too. This lesson examines how Jesus is eligible to save us from the penalty of sin because He is the perfect law-keeper. Just like Adam, Jesus was tempted, but He didn't sin. Jesus kept all of God's commands, succeeding where all other people have failed. Jesus was victorious over Satan, which fulfills more Old Testament promises.

Memory Verse: John 1:14b

Lesson 35: Jesus: The Final Word

Various Gospel Passages

Jesus brings completion to the Bible and explains the whole message of the Bible.

Jesus is God's Anointed One, the Messiah, the One able to fulfill all of the promises (clues) revealed in the Old Testament. Jesus speaks with final authority and is God's greatest Prophet. This lesson reviews Jesus' life showing that He indeed is the Messiah.

Memory Verse: John 1:15

Lesson 36: Jesus: Great High Priest

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2)

Jesus is our great High Priest, the one Mediator between God and sinful man.

The Old Testament appointment of a temple and priests was temporary, pointing to something better—Jesus. Students will discover that the fullness of God dwells in the Person of Jesus. It is Christ and Christ alone who brings His people into the presence of God.

Memory Verse: John 1:16

Lesson 37: Jesus: Lamb of God

Redemption through Christ (Portions of Hebrews)

Jesus offered Himself as the one perfect sacrifice for sin.

The Old Testament system of priests, sacrifices, and temple was temporary, pointing to something much better—Jesus. In this lesson, we see that not only is Jesus the great High Priest, but He is also the perfect sacrifice for sin—the Lamb of God. The death of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, and He took our punishment for sin.

Memory Verse: John 1:17

Lesson 38: The Mystery Is Solved!

Various New Testament Passages

The new covenant is for all people who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.

This lesson encourages students to take what they've discovered in the past 37 lessons to reveal the answer to the mystery: Jesus came to establish a new covenant between God and His sinful people. This new covenant promises deliverance from sin and death because of what Jesus accomplished. This new covenant is everlasting and has been made official by the shed blood of Jesus. The new covenant is for all people who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.

Memory Verse: John 1:18

Lesson 39: Jesus: Returning King!

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus will one day return to earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

Now that students know the solution to the mystery, what does this mean for the future? This lesson shows students that 1) Jesus' resurrection is proof that the new covenant has been enacted and accomplishes what it promises; 2) Jesus fulfills the Old Testament clues concerning the throne of David; and 3) Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the throne in heaven. They will also discover that Jesus will one day return to earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

Memory Verses: Review John 1:1-18

Lesson 40: A Story for You

Various New Testament Passages

All people respond to Jesus, either in belief resulting in eternal life, or unbelief resulting in eternal condemnation.

This lesson summarizes the curriculum by telling students that God desires to save sinners through what Jesus has done on the cross. God has written all people into the story of the Bible. It has a personal message for each of us, because all people respond to Jesus, either in belief or unbelief.

Memory Verse: None

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