

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

**JESUS: A
MAN OF
GOD'S WILL**

Open it

1. When have you been surprised to have someone show up at something?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 7:1–24.

2. Which Jewish celebration was taking place at this time? Where was Jesus when this celebration started?
3. What did Jesus' brothers want Him to do? Where did they want Him to go? How did Jesus respond to them?
4. What were some of the different things people thought about Jesus?
5. How did Jesus validate His teaching?
6. What comparison did Jesus make in His defense to the crowds and the Jews?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Rejected and Alone

Read John 7:1–9.

Some of you may know the feeling of being “alone” as a Christian. Maybe you’re the only one in your family or friend group who believes in Jesus and follows Him. Maybe this makes you sometimes feel like the “outcast” or “loner” of the group. Who else better understands those feelings of being “rejected” and “isolated” by their own family than Jesus? John 7:6 says that even His own siblings didn’t believe in Him!

Jesus’ brother’s “suggestion” to Him in verses 3–4 isn’t much more than a poke at Jesus’ claims to be the Son of God. You might even pick up on some of the sarcasm that they may have had in their statement, “If you really want to be known, then why are you hiding? Go to Jerusalem so everyone else can see your great works.”

Oh, how sad it must have made Jesus to see even His own brothers not getting it. For Jesus, it wasn’t just about getting on the trending tab, or gaining the most followers (real-life followers, not Instagram follows). For Jesus, it was about doing what the Father wanted Him to do and gaining the “right” followers—those who believed in Him for who he really was and were devoted to Him.

The reality is, as Jesus points out when He responds to His brothers, the world doesn’t really want Jesus. The world needs Him, but doesn’t want Him. That’s because Jesus calls things how they are. He isn’t afraid to step on some toes. Jesus says the world hates him because he calls out the evil things they do—not just the evil things that people do on the surface, but the evil that takes place in a person’s heart.

7. Why are we as Christians today sometimes so scared to “step on toes” when it comes to proclaiming our faith?

8. How do you “step on toes” (identify evil and sin) and still be gracious and welcoming to unbelievers?

9. What are your thoughts on the following statement?

“If people dislike you for being a Christian, you aren’t really being Jesus to them.”

10. Do you think there is ever a time when Christians should be “ok” with the world disliking us? Explain what you think.

Day 3 — Today's Theme: It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's...Who is He?

Read John 7:10–13.

“It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s ... who is He?”

Read John 7:10-13

“Who is Jesus?” If you asked 100 people this simple question you might get more than a dozen different answers. While there’s little disagreement that Jesus was an actual person, there is a lot of disagreement on “who” Jesus was. The answer to that question is exactly what the world was trying to figure out when He walked this earth.

“He is a good man.”

“He leads people astray.”

Two opposing opinions or views of who Jesus was, yet both of them miss the target by a long shot! Even though it may be popular to believe that Jesus existed, what you believe about Him will hold eternal outcomes.

11. What is incomplete about only saying, “Jesus is a good man”?

What makes some people say that “Jesus is leading people astray”?

12. What are some other popular “opinions” that people might have about who Jesus is? How do those measure up to who Jesus really is? Think about what you know about other religions, such as how the Pharisees viewed Jesus, or those without religion.

Day 4 — Today's Theme: An Ezpert Authority

Read John 7:14–18.

We have favorite teachers in school for many different reasons. Sometimes we like them because they really don't teach us much and their classes are "easy" or "blow off" classes. Sometimes we like teachers because they **get** us—they're kind and understanding. Other times we like teachers because they are geniuses and it's actually fun to listen to them talk about things they're passionate about. Jesus certainly wasn't a "blow off" teacher, but He did fit the other two reasons I mentioned.

When Jesus started teaching in the temple, the people were amazed! "How could someone without proper education teach with such authority!?" they wondered. The answer is that Jesus isn't just teaching ideas or theories He learned in a textbook somewhere. He is teaching from what He has seen and experienced and knows to be true! Jesus claims credibility because He wasn't speaking on His own behalf. He was teaching with the Father's authority.

I wonder what it would have been like to sit and listen to Jesus teach. How engaging was He? Did He speak with a strong tone or gentleness? Maybe both? Did He have to use any notes, or did He teach fully from what He knew in His heart and mind? However He taught, He did so with great authority. And so can we!

You wouldn't be nervous to talk about your best friends or your family. You could speak with confidence and boldness because you know them! Sure, there are things we need to learn and understand about the Christian faith and the Bible, but at the end of the day, if you know God, you can have the same confidence to speak boldly about Him as you would your friends and family.

13. Think about a teacher in your life that you've heard talk passionately about a subject. What's stopping us from talking that passionately about God to others?

14. Read Acts 4:13. Why is an authentic relationship with God better in some ways than mere formal education when it comes to talking about the things of God with authority and conviction?

How should we view formal, biblical training in the Church compared to those with only a strong relationship with Him?

Day 5 — Today's Theme: Missing the Point

Read John 7:19–24.

Jesus had a way of ruffling feathers, not because He was doing anything wrong, but because the people around Him had gotten so stuck in their ways they became blind to their own dysfunctions. They were so fixated on following the letter of the Law that they had completely missed the point.

The Jews were so upset with Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath (John 5:1–17) because it broke the “Sabbath” law. But Jesus points out that they were living with a double standard. They were mad at Him for healing a man’s whole body, while the Jews were fine to make an exception for a baby to be circumcised on the Sabbath if need be to uphold the Law of circumcision.

Why was that a big deal? Circumcision was a “sign” of living in covenant with God. It was super important to the Jews that all the baby boys would be circumcised on the 8th day after they were born. So they were fine to make an exception on behalf of a man’s body when it came to one part of the law, but not another? Jesus calls them out on this!

To the Jews, spiritual faithfulness and maturity was nothing more than checking off the list of the laws and making sure they were followed to the “t.” But Jesus says that spiritual maturity is to **do God’s will**, which they were missing. God’s will is **found in** what the Law points to and reveals. Life and righteousness were never truly found in the Law.

The Jews were missing the point.

15. How would you define spiritual maturity?

16. In what ways do you at times get caught up in the “letter of the law” (like the Pharisees) rather than understanding the “spirit of the law” (like Jesus)?