



The Word Is Jesus

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs*
(Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering*
- Supplies needed for Hearing the Word activities #1 & 2

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons*
(Found in the introduction section.)

*These items will be needed every week.

Note this...

Before class, take time to do the prep needed for both "Hearing the Word" activities.

LEADER'S Review

I am always experiencing *déjà vu*. I get into situations I'm certain I have gone through before. I can often remember back to when I originally witnessed the event. The first time I really knew I was experiencing *déjà vu*, it was as if the whole universe came together at that moment. Worlds collided and I was in the middle of it all.

Can you even imagine the people of Nazareth coming to church on that Sabbath? They had gathered for worship, and Jesus came to the front of the synagogue to read. He pulled out a prophecy they all would have known. They all would have recognized the passage. They let the words of hope float over their ears with the anticipation that God would one day send them a Savior to free them from all oppression.

Then the bombshell dropped—Jesus said this prophecy had been fulfilled in their presence that day. What? That little boy who had run around with the ball—the Savior? That young man who had built the chairs in my house? That teenager who had sailed on my boat? He's the Savior?

As the next three years progressed, He did all He said He would do. Can you imagine their faces when they heard the news He had given sight to a blind man? Can you picture their amazement when they heard about His releasing a woman who had bled for 12 years? Can you see that shock when they realized their worlds had collided? They had seen Jesus—in the words read to them.

*Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him, To say that we love Him.*



Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1-2 minutes)

Luke 4:14–21

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”



Prayer

Have a prayer of thanksgiving for the Savior Jesus and His Word. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Father: We give You thanks for sending Your Son Jesus to be our Savior and for Your plan of salvation shown throughout Scripture. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (6-8 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for activity)

Last week, we talked about how God’s Word shapes us—when we read it, we are changed! Let’s see how much you remember.

Review Questions:

- What king cleaned up Israel? *King Josiah*
- What did Josiah’s men find in the ruins of the temple? *God’s Word, the scrolls, etc.*
- What did Josiah do when he heard that God’s people hadn’t obeyed? *He got really upset and tore his clothes.*
- Josiah led the people in a big celebration. Can you name it? *Passover*
- What are some names people have used to describe the Bible? *Bread, mirror, sword, meat, milk, fire, hammer, gold, honey, seeds, pearl, road sign, lamp, treasure*

(Hearing the Word – Continued)

ACTIVITY #1: Word Scramble Activity

Supplies Needed:

- White card stock (3 sheets)
- 10 envelopes
- Scissors

Instructions:

- Before class print the three pages of the Word Scramble Activity onto sheets of card stock. Cut out each word and put its letters into one of the envelopes (one word's letters per envelope). Give one envelope to two or three children to work on.
- Give one envelope to two or three children to solve.

In each envelope are the letters for a word you probably know. Your task is to arrange the letters to unscramble that word. **Give students a few minutes to solve. Then have them call out the words they unscrambled.**

Did you know all these words are names of Jesus? That's right! The Bible tells us Jesus is like the morning star or sun; He's like the bread that fills us up, the gate that opens for us to be with God, and so many more things. Getting to know Jesus is the best present ever. He is the absolute best friend you can have! Surprisingly, when Jesus was first here on earth starting His ministry, people didn't realize who He was. They thought He was just the son of a carpenter. He had to let people know who He really was, and He started one day while at the synagogue.

Let's pray before we begin: Dear Lord, we want to know You. We want to know Jesus. Would You help us to know Him and how He helps us even today? Thanks for showing us who Jesus is and why we need Him. In Jesus's name, amen.

When Jesus lived on earth and went to the synagogue (or church), the scrolls that held God's Word would be laid open on the table in front. The leaders of the church would go up and read some scripture. They would then sit down and discuss what they had read. One Sabbath, Jesus went to church and walked to the table that had the scrolls on it. (Now, remember the only scripture they had when Jesus was here was the Old Testament.) He picked up the scroll and turned to the place He wanted to read to the people.

Use the scroll from last week to illustrate the way the Scriptures were opened in the synagogue. The Bible tells us He read these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then Jesus sat down and everyone looked at Him, waiting for Him to speak. There was a strange silence because this was the synagogue in Nazareth, the one Jesus had attended almost all His life. The people there were His friends, His family, and His classmates. So, the people looking at Him remembered Him as a child, a youth, and a young carpenter. They thought they knew Him very well.

So, when they heard what He said next, it shocked them! Jesus said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." See, the scripture He read was about God sending Someone

(Hearing the Word – Continued)

to bring healing to the land, the One who was going to redeem the world, the Savior of all people. Jesus just told His friends and family *He* was the One God had sent to be the Savior of the world!

“How could that be?” the people thought. They knew this man—or at least, they thought they did. They didn’t know what we now know thanks to the New Testament. They didn’t know how He would change lives with His words or heal people with His touch or save sinners and give eternal life with His death and resurrection.

The people in Nazareth didn’t yet know the stories we can read in the New Testament that prove Jesus was the fulfillment of the words He had read to them. He did preach the good news to those who were poor in spirit and broken by sin such as the woman caught in sin by the Temple leaders. When they brought her to Jesus to have Him condemn her, Jesus told them whoever was without sin could condemn her. That made all those who had brought her walk away. Then Jesus, the only One who has ever lived without sin, told her He did not condemn her. As the Bible passage He had read in Nazareth said, He not only gave her the good news, He proclaimed liberty to the woman and many like her held captive by sin.

The people in Nazareth who heard Jesus proclaim to be the Savior had yet to hear about or see the many times He healed those who were sick, made the deaf hear and the blind see as the scripture Jesus read had prophesied He would. And the people in Nazareth, who thought they knew Him so well, did not yet know Jesus would free those oppressed by sin, doomed to be separated from God forever, by His dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Jesus was the fulfillment of that scripture passage read in Nazareth. He did proclaim liberty through His preaching; He did restore sight to those not only physically blind but to those spiritually blinded by sin; and finally, He did free those oppressed by sin, by bearing God’s wrath for us on the cross.

Jesus was the only One who could accomplish those things God had promised the Savior would do. Jesus continues to fulfill scripture even today. When He left to go back to heaven, Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to be with us. The Holy Spirit works on Jesus’s behalf to continue to make those scriptures true today. Through the preaching of God’s Word, the Spirit proclaims liberty from sin and freedom through Christ. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see where God is at work in our lives. He opens our eyes to see things like God sees them, to see people who are hurting and need help. Finally, the Spirit frees us from the fear of death, the penalty for sin. We don’t have to be afraid of death if we know Jesus. The victory over death is ours with Jesus.

It’s beautiful how God’s Word shows us what Jesus has done. At the same time, it shows us how much we need Jesus—to free us, open our eyes, and save us!

ACTIVITY #2: Bookmarks. *Remind the students Jesus is the Word, and when we read the Bible, we see Jesus in every page and story. Have them each make a bookmark for their Bibles. Encourage them to mark where their parents are reading to them. If they are reading, they can mark their own progress.*

Instructions: Print template on cardstock and cut out, allow the students to color with crayons/markers, and then seal with laminating paper.

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit (Phil. 4:23).



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