# Jesus is God

# **Memory Verse:**

He will be called Immanuel. The name Immanuel means "God with us." Matthew 1:23b (NIrV)

#### **Scripture References:**

- Matthew 1:23b
- ☐ Luke 1. 2
- Matthew 1
- ☐ John 3:16
- 1 John 4:9
- Romans 5:8

#### **Materials Needed:**

- □ Bible
- □ Seeker Series #4 "Redemption" for each child
- □ 2 bowls and 2 spoons
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Construction paper or small sheet of poster board
- Masking tape
- ☐ Bible costume (Shepherd)
- ☐ Shepherd's staff or stick
- ☐ A sheep stuffed animal
- ☐ Ice cubes
- □ Bowl
- Water
- ☐ Clear cup
- Marker
- $\square$  Scissors
- ☐ A few items used to express love (i.e., cards, gifts, jewelry, flowers, candy, Valentines)
- □ Paper
- ☐ Colored markers or crayons
- ☐ Poster board, newsprint or butcher paper
- □ Blindfold
- ☐ Craft sticks (popsicle sticks) or paper cut into thin strips 10 cm x 1 cm

#### Life Point:

Jesus is God with us.



This lesson is based on Seeker Series Issue #4: Redemption. It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

#### **Lesson Summary:**

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- Jesus is both human and God
- Jesus is God's love shown to us
- Jesus is like us so He can relate to us and our feelings

#### **Teacher Introduction:**

PowerMark Seeker Series Issue #4, "Redemption", begins to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" In this book, PowerMark presents the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The story covers his life on earth and why He left heaven to come to earth. PowerMark ends the story with Jesus' promise of eternal life in heaven for those who follow Him.

Today's lesson introduces the children to Jesus, the Son of God. God chose to be with us through His Son, Jesus. He came into this world through the Virgin Mary, yet, God was His father. Therefore Jesus was both God and man. As a man, He experienced all of the things that come with humanity such as pain, suffering, emotions, and temptations, yet He never sinned against God.

He left behind the beauty and perfection of heaven to come and live in our sinful world to show us what God the Father is like, to show us God's love, to show us how to live a life that pleases God, and to pay the price for our sin through His death on the cross.

Because Jesus was a human like us, He is able to understand all that we go through in life. He is familiar with our pain, struggles, and temptations and He can help us through those difficult times. He is God with us. He will never leave us.

# **Large Group Time**

# Supplies:

- □ Bible
- ☐ 2 bowls
- ☐ 2 spoons
- Cotton balls
- Construction paper or small sheet of poster board
- Masking tape
- → Optional: To add variety to the game, the leader can stand at the goal line and call out different things the children are to do while they are carrying or fanning the cotton ball (i.e., hop on one foot, walk backwards, bunny hop on both feet, crawl, skip, side step, etc.)

#### © Lesson Introduction

Title: "Round Trip"

**Purpose:** For the children to learn that Jesus left all the beauty and perfection of heaven to come to earth as a human and then returned to heaven once His work was completed.

**Preparation:** Put an equal number of cotton balls in each bowl. Place the bowls at the starting point. Make a goal line using the masking tape about 8-10 paces from the bowls. Place a tablespoon and construction paper or poster board by each bowl.

How to Play: Divide the children into two equal teams. If you have a lot of children, you may consider increasing the amount of teams or select children to play the game. Each team lines up behind a bowl. The first child of each team picks up the spoon and one sheet of paper. When you say "GO!", the player scoops the spoon into the bowl of cotton balls and tries to get one cotton ball on the spoon. He holds the spoon with the cotton ball in it in one hand and the construction paper in the other. He carries the cotton ball in the spoon across the room and drops it on the other side of the goal line. Then using the paper as a fan, he fans the cotton ball along as he walks back to the team. Then the child hands the spoon and paper to the next child in line and the relay continues until each player on the team has gone.

Say: We are going to play a game called "Round Trip". Explain how to play the game and do it once as an example. Once the children understand the directions, play the game. Repeat the game if time allows using the variations listed to the left.

After the game, say: In this game, we sent the cotton balls on a round trip from the bowl to the goal line and back. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about someone who went on a round trip also. His round trip started in heaven, where He left everything behind to come to earth. On earth, He completed His goal and returned to heaven. Does anyone know who I am talking about? (Allow response.) Answer: Jesus.

Today we are going to learn about Jesus. Who He is, why He came to earth, and how He can make a difference in our lives.

## Bible Lesson

Supplies:

■ Bible

Title: "God With Us"

**Purpose:** To teach the children that Jesus is God, He was like us, and He showed us God's love through His actions and what He taught.

- ☐ Bible costume (Shepherd)
- ☐ Shepherd's staff or stick
- □ A sheep stuffed animal (optional)

#### □ Scriptures:

- Luke 1,2
- Matthew 1
- Isaiah 7:14

**Preparation:** You will be telling the story of Jesus' birth, childhood, and ministry through the eyes of a shepherd. Gather an appropriate Bible costume and staff/stick.

Step out of the room or out of view of the children to put on the shepherd's costume. Walk in holding your staff and the stuffed sheep. Look at the children with a confused look. Wait a minute. You don't look like sheep to me. Micah must have given me wrong directions...again. Last time Micah gave me directions I ended up in a den of wolves. Well at least you don't look as dangerous as the wolves. Where am I anyway? (Allow the children to respond.)

You children remind me of a very special child that I met once. Would you like to hear the story of how I met him? (Allow response.) Well let's see...where should I begin? Oh...where are my manners? I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Benjamin, but my friends call me Ben.

As you probably can see, I am a shepherd. Many years ago, I was one of the shepherds who took care of the sheep that were to be used for the temple sacrifices in Jerusalem. We kept the sheep in a small town near Jerusalem called Bethlehem. You see, the ceremonial law required that a perfect lamb, without any blemishes or marks, be offered to God every morning and evening as a sacrifice for our sins. At that time, it was the only way that our sins would be forgiven and we could be made right before God.

These sacrifices were only a temporary solution to the problem of sin. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a day when the Messiah would come and pay the price for sin once and for all (Isaiah 53). The priests would no longer need to offer sheep as a sacrifice each day. The Messiah, Lamb of God, would be the final sacrifice for all sin.

One night, we were watching the sheep in the fields outside Bethlehem. The city was full of people from all over the country. Caesar Augustus had commanded that all people return to their home town to register or be counted for tax purposes. Every available room was used. In fact, some people had to spend the night outside under the stars or find shelter in stables.

Suddenly, a light brighter than the sun appeared in the sky above me and the other shepherds. It scared us to death. A voice came from the light and I realized that it was an angel of the Lord. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know that I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Then a large group of angels appeared with the first angel and they praised God saying, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!" It was the most beautiful sound I have ever heard.

The angels left and I told the other shepherds, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." With the sound of the angels' song still ringing in our ears and our hearts pounding within our chests, we ran into the city of Bethlehem.

We searched every stable until we found the one with a newborn baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger or feeding trough. We also saw the baby's mother, Mary, and Joseph. As soon as we saw the baby, we fell to our knees and worshipped him. We knew that this was no ordinary baby. He was the Messiah, the promised Lamb of God.

We told Mary and Joseph what the angel had told us. They told us that an angel had appeared to each of them, several months before. The angel told Mary that God was pleased with her and she was going to have a baby. The baby's father was going to be God, not Joseph. God placed the baby in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit and she became pregnant (Luke 1:26-38).

Joseph told us that when he heard that Mary was pregnant, he was going to leave Mary and not marry her. But the angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-21).

I knew that this was the fulfillment of what the prophet Isaiah had foretold hundreds of years earlier. "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel...God with us (Isaiah 7:14)."

After we had seen the baby Jesus, we told everyone what we had seen and what the angel had said about this child. God came to be with us through His Son, Jesus, the Messiah, Lamb of God and Savior of the world. Think about it...because He loves us so much, God chose to come to the earth He created as a human, one of His own creation. He was like us and lived among us. He went through all the ages and stages that we go through. He had human feelings and experienced all of the same things we experience in our life yet He never sinned.

Because He never sinned, Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God without any blemish or stain of sin who could offer His life as a sacrifice for our sin. What a wonderful Savior. He is the Good Shepherd who lay down His life for His sheep – all of us.

Oh, speaking of sheep...I almost forgot. I have sheep waiting for me out in the field. I better get back to them and go find Micah to get the correct directions. Thanks for letting me share my story of Jesus, God's Son and the perfect Lamb of God. Exit the room.

## Object Lesson

Supplies:

Bible

☐ Ice cubes

■ Bowl

■ Water

□ Clear cup

Title: "Jesus is God"

**Purpose**: To illustrate that Jesus is God.

**Preparation:** Put the ice cubes in a bowl and keep cool until you need

them for the lesson. Pour water in a clear cup.

Presentation: Hold up one of the ice cubes. Who can tell me what I am holding in my hand? (Allow response.) That's right; it's an ice cube. What do we use ice cubes for? (Allow response.) Possible answers: keep our drinks cold, keep food cool, etc. These ice cubes serve several purposes but they can only do their job when they are what? (Allow response.) Answer: frozen or cold.

Hold up the cup of water in the other hand. What am I holding in this hand? (Allow response.) That's right; it's a cup of water. What does water in liquid form do for us and our world? (Allow response.) Possible answers: our bodies need water to survive, it quenches our thirst, helps things grow and stay healthy, etc.

How is an ice cube different from the liquid form of water? (Allow response.) Possible answers: it's frozen, hard, has a shape, etc. How is an ice cube the same as water in liquid form? (Allow response.) Answers: an ice cube is water in frozen or solid form. Liquid water and ice are the same in nature because they are both water but they are uniquely different in form or substance. The water has no true shape outside of the container that is holding it. If I pour this liquid water out on the ground what will happen? (Allow response.) Possible answer: it will form a puddle; it won't be the shape of the cup anymore. The solid form of water, ice, becomes the shape of the container it is placed in when it is frozen and stays that shape as long as it is at a temperature below freezing.

Water and ice are the same but they perform different functions. Therefore, I can hold up the ice cube and say that it is water, right? (Allow response.) So both of these are water.

This is a great example of God the Father and God the Son, Jesus. Water is life-giving. It makes things live, grow and remain alive. God is the same. He is the true giver of all life as we learned in the story of the creation of the world and all that is in it. Jesus was with God in the very beginning. In fact, Jesus created the world along with God (John 1:1-14). God the Son (Jesus) and God the Father are the same in nature – each is God – yet they are different in form.

God the Father is not confined to a shape or a body. God is spirit and is everywhere. He is like water in liquid form.

Jesus became a human like us. When Jesus came to earth as a man He set aside many of the qualities that make Him God, such as His omnipresence. A human body can only be one place at a time. Even though He became a human in form, He was still God in nature. He was both God and man just like this ice cube is both ice and water.

So the next time you see a glass of ice water think about God the Father and God the Son, Jesus. Liquid water and ice are both still water. God the Father and Jesus are both God – they are One and the same.

## Bible Verse

He will be called Immanuel. The name Immanuel means "God with us." Matthew 1:23b (NIrV)

**Purpose:** When the verse is taught using actions or an activity, the children will learn the verse easier and will retain it in their memory longer.

**Preparation:** Cut the poster board or cardstock into pieces that are 12cm  $\times$  28cm (4 ½ inches by 11 inches). Write one or two words of the verse on each card as specified below. After writing the words on the cards, cut the cards in half at the space between the words so that one word is on each half (Except for the word Immanuel. Cut it at the space indicated below between the letters "A" and the "N".) Cut each card differently, like the various pieces of a puzzle, so that only the matching pieces complete the puzzle correctly. Using the example below, you will have 16 puzzle pieces (8 cards cut into 2 pieces = 16).

Card 1: HE WILL
Card 2: BE CALLED
Card 3: IMMA NUEL.
Card 4: THE NAME
Card 5: IMMA NUEL
Card 6: MEANS "GOD
Card 7: WITH US."
Card 8: MATTHEW 1:23b

Activity Instructions: Hide the 16 puzzle pieces around the room or tape them to the bottom side of chairs before class. Instruct the children to find the puzzle pieces (a child can only have one piece). Once they have found a puzzle piece, they should hold it up in the air. When all 16 pieces have been found, tell the children that the card they are holding connects to one of the other cards. When you say "GO!" they need to find the correct match for their puzzle piece. Once they have found the correct match, they need to hold the pair together so that it completes the puzzle. Now the class needs to put the words in order to complete the verse. You may consider having one of the children look the verse up in the Bible and read it aloud. You could also write the verse on the chalkboard. All the children work together to put the words in proper order. When it is in order, have the children say the verse with you several times.

■ Bible

□ Poster board or cardstock

■ Marker

Scissors

After you have completed the activity say: In order to understand and learn our verse today we had to find the missing puzzle piece, connect the pieces and then put the verse in order. Jesus came to help us connect to God. Jesus showed us who God is and what He is like. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

## **Small Group Time**

#### Supplies:

- ☐ Bible
- □ An few items used to express love (i.e., cards, gifts, jewelry, candy, flowers, Valentines)
- □ Paper
- □ Pencils
- Markers or crayons

# Small Group Activity #1

Title: "God's Gift of Love"

**Purpose**: For the children to understand that God sent His Son, Jesus, because He loves us.

**Preparation:** Gather a few items or objects used to express love and place them in a box or bag.

Place the box or bag on a table or chair and say: I've brought some items with me today that have something in common. Let's see if you can figure out what that is? Pull out each item, briefly describe it and place it on the table. Once all the objects have been shown say: Does anyone want to guess what these have in common? (Allow response.) Answer: they are used to show or express love; a symbol of love. You may need to give the children a few hints. These items are often used to show someone you love them. They are an expression or symbol of your love.

Read John 3:16; 1 John 4:9; and Romans 5:8. You may want to choose three children and assign each one a verse to read. After the verses are read say: These verses tell us how God chose to show His love for us. How did God show us that He loves us? (Allow response.) Answer: He sent His Son, Jesus; God sent Jesus to die for our sins. Do you think it was easy for God to send His Son to die for us? (Allow response.) That means that God really loves us a lot. He loves us so much that He was willing to give up something that was very important to Him. Jesus is God's gift of love to us. That is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Have you received God's gift of love? (Allow response.) If some children have not yet received Christ as their Lord and Savior, tell them that they will have an opportunity to do that today during the closing prayer.

Give each child a piece of paper and put the markers and crayons on the tables. Tell the children to use the paper to make a card that illustrates how God showed us His love. They can draw pictures and use words like a greeting card. Encourage them to give the card they made to someone who needs to hear about God's love.

# Small Group Activity #2

Title: "Pick A Word"

**Purpose:** To review the Bible lesson.

**Preparation:** Write 10-15 words in various places on the paper that were used in the Bible Lesson (see word list below). Add some words that have nothing to do with the story. Tape the paper to the wall at the children's eye level.

Word List: shepherds, angels, Bethlehem, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, manger, sheep, Jerusalem, lamb, God, Immanuel, sacrifice, sin, baby. Unrelated words: dog, game, pizza, football, TV, car.

How to Play: Select one child and place the blindfold on him or her. Stand about 5 feet (1.5 m) from the paper. Turn the child around three times and direct him or her toward the paper. The child moves toward the paper, touches it with his or her finger, and removes the blindfold. If the child's finger "picks" a word by touching it, he or she tells if the word belongs in the Bible story. If the word belongs in the story, he or she uses the word in a sentence telling information from the Bible lesson. Repeat until all the children have had a turn.

Example: child "picks" the word "manger" by placing his finger on that word. He decides if the word belongs in the story (yes, it does). Then uses that word in a sentence. "After Jesus was born He was laid in a manger."

For an added challenge, divide the children into two teams. Follow the instructions as above. One point is earned for each "correct" word picked.

## Bible Verse Review

He will be called Immanuel. The name Immanuel means "God with us." Matthew 1:23b (NIrV)

**Purpose:** To review the Scripture Verse and encourage the children to memorize it.

Game: "Verse on a Stick"

**Preparation:** Write the words of the Bible verse and its reference on craft sticks, one or two words on each stick. **Make several sets of sticks, one set for each group of three or four children.** 

**Activity Instructions**: Say or read the verse aloud a few times. Have the children say the verse with you. Divide the children into three groups. Each group sits in a circle. Mix up all of the sticks and divide the sticks among the groups so that each group has an equal amount. The groups arrange the sticks in order to complete the verse. One group decides on a

#### Supplies:

□ Bible

☐ Poster board, newsprint or butcher paper

■ Marker

■ Blindfold

#### Supplies:

☐ Bible

☐ Craft sticks or paper cut into thin strips 10cmx1cm

□ Markers

stick it doesn't need (a duplicate stick, perhaps) and then passes the stick to the group to the right. That group passes a stick it doesn't need to the next group. Play continues until a group has the complete verse in order. Play again as time permits.

# © Life Application

**Purpose:** To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

If the children have not yet read this book, take time to read the book as a group. Here are some ways to read the book together:

- You read the book aloud as the children follow along.
- The children can take turns reading. Each child reads one page.
- You can assign the children to read the parts of particular character(s) (PowerMark, Yaro, Shanti, Amber, Mr. Bala, etc.)
- The children can read the book on their own, quietly.

After the book has been read, ask the following questions. Have the children raise their hand if they want to answer a question. Only one child should answer at a time. Make sure the discussion is not dominated by only one or two children. Encourage all of the children to be involved in the discussion.

Be careful not to approach this time as a test with you, the leader, asking questions and the children giving the correct answer. Instead, spend the time in a conversational manner with the children. Listen to what the children have to say about the book, especially the Bible portion of the story. By listening you will be able to assess how well they understand the gospel presentation through the Seeker's Series.

- 1. What was Mindfree's plan to make the Seekers stop studying the Christian faith and join Mindfree? Bribing them to leave by giving them whatever they want, if they will stop studying the Christian faith (page 1).
- 2. Who was the real target of Leviathan's/Mindfree's plan? PowerMark or Mark Chen (page 6-7).
- 3. Why doesn't PowerMark want to tell the Seekers about Mindfree's plan of bribery? Because he wants them to make up their own minds about the truth without feeling pressured by him (page 7).
- 4. About how many years ago was Jesus born? 2,000 (page 8).
- 5. What town was Jesus born in? Bethlehem (page 8).
- 6. How was Jesus' birth different than an ordinary baby? God was Jesus' father not a man. God placed the baby in Mary by the Holy Spirit (page 8).
- 7. Jesus was a child just like all of us with one exception. What was

- Supplies:
- ☐ PowerMark Seeker Series #4 "Redemption" book (for each child)
- □ Pencils or Pens

- it? Jesus never sinned against God (page 8.)
- 8. As Jesus grew older, He helped His earthly father, Joseph, with work?. What kind of work did Joseph do? He was a carpenter (page 8).
- 9. How old was Jesus when He began to do the work of God, His heavenly father? 30 years old (page 8).
- 10. **What is heaven like?** Perfect and holy. There is no sin, no pain, no suffering, no crying and no death (page 9).
- 11. Where was Jesus before He came to earth as a baby? He was in heaven (page 9).
- 12. The Bible tells us that God exists in three forms yet He is One God. What are the three forms of God? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (page 9-10).
- 13. What were some of the main reasons Jesus came to earth as a man? To show us what God the Father was like, to show us God's love, to show us how to lifve a life that pleases God, and to pay the price for our sins by dying on the cross (page 10-11).

Next week, we'll learn more about Jesus and why He had to die on the cross.

If time allows, have the children fill-in-the-blanks on the last page of Seeker Series #4. They can work individually or as a group. Here are the answers:

Answers to the questions on the last page:

- 1. About <u>**2,000**</u> years ago, Jesus was born in a little city called Bethlehem in the country of Israel.
- 2. Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, was a carpenter.
- 3. Jesus chose to leave a perfect **heaven** to come to a sin-filled world.
- 4. There are three parts to God, but there is only one Godpersons to **God**, but there is only one **God**.
- 5. We can think about human beings having a <u>body</u>, a <u>mind</u>, and a <u>spirit</u> to help us understand the three forms of God.
- 6. We refer to God as a trinity, because He is 3 yet 1.
- 7. Jesus showed God's <u>love</u> for people by healing their sicknesses, caring for their needs, and answering their <u>questions</u>.
- 8. Two friends of Jesus, named <u>Joseph</u> and <u>Nicodemus</u> asked if they could bury Jesus' body.
- 9. When Jesus **died**, his spirit did not die.
- 10. Jesus did not leave us <u>alone</u>. The Holy Spirit is here with us. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but he is a **helper** for those who ask.
- 11. Jesus promised that someday He will <u>return</u> to earth and take those who **believe** in Him back to heaven with Him.

# © Closing Prayer

Since this lesson presented why Jesus came, take this opportunity to invite the children to accept Jesus as their Savior. Draw their attention to page 11 in Seeker Series #4, "Redemption." Take some time to briefly explain the way of salvation through Jesus, God's Son.

End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away their sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

Dear God,
I am sorry for all of my sin.
Please forgive me...
For all of the wrong things...
I have done, said, and thought.
I believe Jesus died on the cross...
So my sins could be taken away...
And He came back to life...
Three days later.
Please come into my life...
And help me love you...
And live like you want me to live.
Thank you for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each others' needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today.