

The Jesus Video

Studies 1 to 4

Study One

Bible Reference: Luke chapter 3 verse 1 – chapter 8 verse 56

Order of Historical Events

John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism

Jesus' story (parable) of the prayers of a Pharisee and tax collector

Jairus' daughter raised to life

Twelve disciples chosen

Jesus' teachings on the hillside

Prostitute washes Jesus' feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee

John the Baptist's question about Jesus

Jesus' parable about the sower and the seed

Calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee

Background Information

The video tells the Bible story about Jesus as accurately as possible using actors. The words spoken are all taken from the Gospel of Luke in the Bible. Luke was a doctor of medicine with a scientific mind so he recorded a lot of detail in his writings.

The preacher at the beginning of the video is John the Baptist, a prophet. (A prophet is someone who receives a message from God and passes it to the people.)

Questions for discussion -

- Why did people follow Jesus?
- Why did some people dislike Jesus?
- In what ways was Jesus different from the people around Him?
- How did Jesus show God's power?

The Jesus Video Study One:

Information Sheet

Why did people follow Jesus?

- Witnessed His baptism where the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove and a voice spoke from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you." (Luke 3 v 22)

John the Baptist had already told them his role was to prepare the way for someone who was great. (Luke 3 v 4 – 6 & 15 – 17)

- His teaching was very different from the religious leaders and He spoke with authority. (Luke 4 v 16 – 22 & Luke 6 v 20 - 38)

- He used parables to explain spiritual matters –

Prayers of the Pharisee and tax collector (Luke 7 v 41 & 42)

Story of the sower and seed (Luke 8 v 5 – 8 & 11 – 15)

- They heard about and saw Him perform miracles –

He raised Jairus' daughter from dead (Luke 8 v 40 – 42 & 49 – 56)

He calmed the storm (Luke 8 v 22 – 25)

- They believed He could be the Messiah, the Saviour who had been promised by God through the prophets hundreds of years before. (Luke 3 v 4 – 6 & 15 – 17)

Why did some people dislike Jesus?

The religious leaders (Pharisees) disapproved of the way He befriended people they saw as sinners. (Luke 7 v 39)

They thought He was a blasphemer because He claimed to forgive sins and they believed only God could do this. (Luke 7 v 48 – 50)

How did Jesus show His power?

Power over nature by calming the storm.

His healing power by raising Jairus' daughter.

His power to forgive sins by telling the prostitute her faith in Him had saved her and her sins were forgiven. (Luke 7 v 47 – 50)

The Jesus Video

Study Two

Bible Reference: Luke chapter 8 verse 26 – chapter 19 verse 10

Order of Events

- Healing of demon-possessed man
- Feeding of the crowd
- Jesus' teachings
- Jesus' story (parable) of the good Samaritan
- Healing of the blind beggar
- The changed life of Zacchaeus, the tax collector

Questions for discussion

- How did Jesus show God's power?
- Questions Jesus asked his disciples –
- What did the disciples reply to Jesus' question, "Who do people say I am?"
- What did Peter reply to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"
- What name did Jesus frequently use for Himself?
- Jesus prophesied His own death – what did He say?
- The following is a list of questions people asked Jesus – what were His replies?
 - What must I do to be saved?
 - Who is my neighbour?
 - How should we pray?

The Jesus Video Study Two: Information Sheet

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

Peter replied, "You are God's Messiah". What did Peter mean by this?

"Messiah" is a Hebrew word which means a person who has been chosen by God for a special task. (In Greek the word is "Christ" or "Anointed One").

For hundreds of years, through the prophets, the Jewish scriptures promised that a Messiah would come to rescue their nation and be their Saviour.

"A son is given to us and he will be our ruler! He will be called "Wonderful Counsellor", "Mighty God", "Eternal Father", Prince of Peace". His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on righteousness and justice from now until the end of time."

Isaiah chapter 9 verses 6 & 7

"The Lord says,

"Here is my servant, whom I strengthen – the one I have chosen, with whom I am pleased. I have filled him with my spirit, and he will bring justice to every nation.

He will bring justice on the earth. Distant lands eagerly wait for his teaching."

Isaiah chapter 42 verses 1 & 4

"The Lord says,

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel.

When he comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the Lord and with the majesty of the Lord God Himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness and he will bring peace."

Micah chapter 5 verses 2,4 & 5

TJM page 8 "Zechariah Praises the Lord"

Luke chapter 1 verses 68 – 79

By the time of Jesus' adulthood, most Jews mistakenly believed that these scriptures meant God would send a great military and political leader who would raise an army and drive out the Roman occupying forces. By His words and actions, Jesus laid claim to be the Messiah. However, He wanted His followers to realise that He didn't come as a conquering king but as a suffering saviour.

Son of Man

Jesus often called Himself the Son of Man which was another title for the Messiah used by the prophet Daniel hundreds of years before Jesus' birth.

"During my dream in the night, I saw what looked like a Son of Man. He was approaching me, surrounded by clouds, and He went to the One who had been living for ever and was presented to Him. He was given authority, honour and royal power, so that the people of all nations, races and languages would serve Him. His authority would last for ever and His kingdom would never end."

Daniel chapter 7 verses 13 & 14

Jesus prophesied about His own death

"The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, but three days later, He will be raised to life."

Luke chapter 9 verse 22

"Jesus took the twelve disciples aside and said to them,

"Listen! We are going to Jerusalem where everything the prophets wrote about the Son of Man will come true. He will be handed over to the Gentiles, who will mock Him, insult Him and kill Him, but three days later he will rise to life".

The disciples did not understand any of these things, the meaning was hidden from them and they did not know what Jesus was talking about."

Luke chapter 18 verses 31 – 34

Questions people asked Jesus and the answers He gave.

- "What must I do to be saved?"

After checking the speaker was obeying the commandments God had given to the Jews, Jesus said,

"Sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me."

Jesus was testing the man to see whether his riches were more important to him than following Jesus. In His teaching, Jesus frequently said that following Him had to be the first priority.

Luke chapter 18 verses 18 - 23

- "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan. See page 27 in TJM to find out the reasons for the hatred between Jews and Samaritans.

Jesus wanted His listeners to realise God wants us to treat all races with respect, dignity and compassion.

Luke chapter 10 verses 29 - 37

- "How should we pray?"

Read the column headed "Prayer" on page 27 in TJM to find Jesus' answer.

Luke chapter 11 verses 1 - 12

The Jesus Video

Study Three

Bible Reference: Luke chapter 19 verse 28 – chapter 23 verse 25

Order of Events

- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey
- Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants in the Temple
- King Herod and the High Priest, Caiaphas, discussed Jesus
- Jesus taught about giving and debated with the religious leaders
- Jesus celebrated the Feast of the Passover with His disciples
- Jesus prayed and was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Peter denied he knew Jesus
- Jesus was questioned by the religious leaders, Pontius Pilate (the Roman Governor of Judea) and King Herod (the Jewish ruler of Galilee).
- Pilate agreed to release the murderer Barabbas and condemned Jesus to death by crucifixion

Questions for discussion

- Why were the crowds so excited when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
- Why did Jesus overturn the tables of the merchants in the Temple?
- Why did the religious leaders and King Herod dislike Jesus?
- What did Jesus teach about giving?
- What did the Feast of the Passover celebrate and how did Jesus use it to explain about His forthcoming death?
- Why didn't Jesus resist His arrest?
- After His arrest, what did the religious leaders accuse Jesus of doing and saying?
- What did Pilate and Herod find Jesus guilty of doing and saying?

The Jesus Video Study Three: Information Sheet

Why were the crowds so excited when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?

Hundreds of years before the prophet Zechariah had prophesied,

“Shout for joy, people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey – on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The Lord says, “I will remove the war chariots from Israel and take the horses from Jerusalem; the bows used in battle will be destroyed. Your king will make peace among the nations; he will rule from sea to sea, from the River Euphrates to the ends of the earth.”

Zechariah chapter 9 verses 9 & 10

Why did Jesus overturn the tables of the merchants in the Temple?

Research by historians has discovered that the buying and selling took place in the outer part of the Temple, called the Court of the Gentiles, which was the only area of the Temple where non-Jews were allowed to enter and pray. By turning it into a market-place, there was nowhere quiet for non-Jews to pray.

The religious leaders said the people could only bring animals and birds for sacrifice which had been bought in the Temple market. The merchants charged very high prices for the animals and birds which the poor people could not afford.

The religious leaders also said the people could only pay their Temple tithes with a special currency available from the money changers in the Temple market. The money changers charged very high rates of commission for changing money which the poor could not afford.

Jesus was angry and said,

“It is written in the Scriptures that God said , “My Temple will be called a house of prayer but you have made it into a hiding place for thieves!”

Luke chapter 19 verse 45

Why did the religious leaders and King Herod dislike Jesus?

King Herod thought Jesus was a political threat to his position of power because many people were following Jesus and keen to listen to His teaching about the Kingdom of God. Herod thought this was a political kingdom which Jesus was trying to set up. He didn't understand that Jesus was talking about a spiritual kingdom.

The religious leaders disliked Jesus because they saw Him as a threat to their position of religious power. Jesus frequently pointed out that their lives didn't follow their own teaching – He called them hypocrites. He told them that God is angry when religious teachers mislead people and when their lives go against God's ways.

They also disliked Jesus because of His claims to be the Messiah and the fact He said He was able to forgive sins.

They were also angry because many people preferred to listen to Jesus' teachings instead of listening to their teaching.

What did Jesus teach about giving?

Jesus taught that what matters to God is not how much we give but our attitude towards our giving and how much we keep back for ourselves. He pointed out that the poor widow had given everything she had, even though it was a very little amount.

What did the Feast of the Passover celebrate and how did Jesus use it to explain about His forthcoming death?

TJM page 47 "Passover"

Jesus told His disciples that from now on they were to break and share the bread as a symbol of His body which was given for them.

At the end of the Passover meal, He took an extra cup of wine and told them this was symbolic of His blood which was poured out for them and was the seal of God's new agreement with His people.

The disciples knew that God's previous agreement with His people which had been told them by the prophet Moses, was that an animal or bird had to be sacrificed and its blood shed for their sins to be forgiven by God.

Jesus was telling His disciples, He was about to become the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. John the Baptist had prophesied when he first saw Jesus, "There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John chapter 1 verse 29

Why didn't Jesus resist His arrest?

Jesus didn't resist because he had previously prophesied that He would be arrested. He had frequently told His followers that the reason He had come to earth was to die as a sacrifice so there could be forgiveness of sins.

The reason He was so troubled in the Garden of Gethsemane was because He knew He was about to become the sacrifice for the sins of people.

What did the religious leaders accuse Jesus of doing and saying?

- Telling the Jews not to pay taxes to Caesar, the Roman Emperor.

This wasn't true because they had asked Jesus about paying taxes several days before and He had replied,

"Pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor and pay God what belongs to God"

Luke chapter 20 verse 25

- Claiming to be the Messiah – a king.

Jesus did claim to be the Messiah (study 2) but he never claimed to be a military or political leader. It was the Jews who mistakenly assumed their Messiah would be a political ruler and had failed to interpret the prophecies in a spiritual way.

- Starting riots in Galilee and Judea.

This was totally untrue.

What did Pilate and Herod find Jesus guilty of doing and saying?

Nothing! Read TJM page 48 "The Death Sentence".

The Jesus Video

Study Four

Bible Reference: Luke chapter 23 verse 26 – chapter 24 verse 51

Order of Events

- Jesus' crucifixion
- Jesus' burial in the tomb
- Women discovered Jesus' body was missing from the tomb
- Jesus appeared to His disciples and followers
- Jesus' ascension into the clouds

Questions for discussion

- During Jesus' crucifixion, two unusual events occurred. What were they and what was their significance?
- Why do you think the Roman soldier guarding the cross described Jesus as "a good man"?
- After Jesus' death, four unusual events occurred. What were they and what was their significance?
- Why is the death and resurrection of Jesus so important to Christians?
- Before His ascension, Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem "until the power from above comes down upon you". What did He mean by this?

The *Jesus* Video Study Four: Information Sheet

During the crucifixion, two unusual events occurred. What were they and what was their significance?

Darkness covered the country from noon until 3pm.

Some Bible scholars believe this was too long for an eclipse and was probably supernatural. While on the cross, Jesus took on Himself all the sins of the world and became the perfect sacrifice required by God the Father for the forgiveness of sins. God is holy and had to temporarily sever His perfect relationship with Jesus which caused Jesus to experience acute spiritual agony. Mark, a follower of Jesus wrote that at 3pm Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" (Mark chapter 15 verse 24). God cloaked this episode in darkness to show His pain and sorrow and to hide Jesus' pain and agony.

The curtain in the Temple was torn in two

Matthew wrote that the curtain was torn from top to bottom suggesting it was supernatural rather than human. (Matthew chapter 27 verse 51)

The curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple. The Holy of Holies was a very special place filled with God's glory and the High Priest could only enter once a year after he had sacrificed a perfect lamb and smeared himself with its blood. He then entered the Holy of Holies to pray and plead with God for the forgiveness of sins of the Jewish nation (and any non-Jews who believed in the one true God). The tearing of the curtain showed that anyone could now enter God's presence as long as they believed Jesus had been sacrificed for their sins.

Why do you think the Roman soldier guarding the cross described Jesus as "a good man"?

i. While on the cross, Jesus said, "Forgive them Father, they don't know what they are doing." This was not likely to be the usual words spoken by criminals at their crucifixion!

ii. The soldier would have heard Jesus' reply to one of the criminals who was crucified with Him. The criminal obviously believed in Jesus because he asked to be remembered when Jesus returned as king. Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me." (Luke chapter 23 verse 43). These were not the kind of words usually spoken by a man dying as a criminal.

iii. Jesus chose the moment of His own death. At 3pm He cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my spirit" and then He promptly died. Usually crucifixion resulted in a slow, agonising death lasting one to two days. Pontius Pilate knew a lot about crucifixion and Mark wrote that he was so surprised to learn how quickly Jesus had died, he sent for the officer in charge to check the details of Jesus' death. (Mark chapter 15 verse 44)

All of these observations caused the Roman soldier to conclude that Jesus was a very different man from the criminals he usually crucified.

After Jesus' death, four unusual events occurred. What were they and what was their significance?

i. The large stone was moved away from the tomb's entrance.

Matthew wrote that "an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled the stone away" (Matthew chapter 28 verse 2).

ii. Jesus' body was missing.

iii. Jesus appeared alive!

He appeared to Simon and Cephas on the road to Emmaus and then to the eleven disciples and other followers. To prove He wasn't a ghost He ate a piece of baked fish in front of them. Luke wrote "for forty days after His death, He appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that He was alive" (Acts chapter 1 verse 3).

iv. Jesus ascended up into the clouds.

Luke wrote, "they still had their eyes fixed on the sky as He went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, "Galileans, why are you standing there, looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven". (Acts chapter 1 verses 10 & 11)

Why is the death and resurrection of Jesus so important to Christians?

"Jesus appeared once and for all to remove sin through the sacrifice of Himself. Christ was offered in sacrifice to take away the sins of many." (Hebrews chapter 9 verse 26 & 28)

"Christ has been raised from death as the guarantee that those who die will also be raised.....All will be raised to life because of their union with Christ". (1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 20 & 22)

Hundreds of years before the great prophet Isaiah had prophesied:-

"We despised Him and rejected Him; He endured suffering and pain.

But He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne.

Because of our sins He was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did.

We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received.

All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way.

But the Lord made the punishment fall on Him, the punishment all of us deserved.

He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word.

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die and no one cared about his fate.

He was put to death for the sins of the people.

The Lord says,

"It was my will that He should suffer, his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness". (Isaiah chapter 53 verses 3 – 10)

Before His ascension, Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem "until power from above comes down upon you." What did He mean by this?

On one occasion when Jesus was talking with His disciples about His forthcoming death, He said, "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God.....The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you." (John chapter 14 verse 16 & 26)

After the ascension, Jesus followers went back to Jerusalem and waited.

Luke wrote, "When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts chapter 2 verses 1 – 4)

Later the disciple Peter spoke to the crowd which had gathered to see what was happening and said,

"This is what the prophet Joel spoke about when he said:

God says, "This is what I will do in the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. I will pour out my Spirit and my servants will proclaim my message.

Whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved."

What you all now see and hear is this gift that He has poured out on us."

Many miracles and wonders were done by the believers and everyone was filled with awe.

(Acts chapter 2 verses 17, 18, 33 & 43)