

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.1—*Divinity of Christ*

#### Memorize

Q4.1—Has the Son always been God with the Father?

A4.1— “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” – John 1:1

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why does it matter that Jesus is truly God?
2. Is Jesus a lesser form of God than the Father? Why or why not?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 1:1–2
  - a. 1:1—What other book begins with “in the beginning”? What does that tell us about Jesus as God? **(Genesis begins with “in the beginning God.” John’s beginning is “the Word.” This is clearly an allusion to Genesis where He is starting by saying that Jesus is God.)**
  - b. 1:1–2—What does it imply about the Son that He was *with* God from the beginning? **(This is to say that the Son has been with the Father from eternity past. That, by definition, makes Him God.)**
  - c. 1:1—The Word was with God, but what else was He? **(God. This is a crystal clear statement that cannot be refuted. John, who wrote a book meant to show us who he—as a follower of Christ—believed Jesus was, and in the very first sentence he declares Him to be God. This is so plain that Jehovah’s Witnesses who deny Jesus as God twisted their false version of the Bible to say the Word was “a” God even though no one who translates Greek would even consider such an absurd translation.)**
2. Isaiah 9:6—What descriptions are given of the Son? **(Born as a human child because that is when His humanity begins. Given as a Son who has already existed. “Wonderful” the same name as the Angel of the LORD who received a sacrifice of worship and is called “the LORD” in Judges 13:18. “Counselor” the same name as the Holy Spirit is given. Mighty God, which speaks for itself. “Everlasting Father” or “Father of Everlasting” showing His eternity. “Prince of Peace” showing He is a Son and the God of Peace.)**
3. Micah 5:2—What are Jesus’s origins? **(From everlasting. No beginning and no end. This makes Him God.)**
4. Matthew 14:33—What does this teach us about Jesus? Did Jesus receive this worship?
5. John 8:58—What was Jesus claiming about Himself? **(He was referencing the burning bush when the Angel of the LORD spoke from the bush, and is Himself called “the LORD,” saying, “I AM has sent you.”)**
6. John 17:5—What glory did Jesus have before anything was created? Who did He share it with? Equally? What does that say about the Son? **(He shared equal glory with the Father for eternity. This makes Him God.)**
7. John 20:28—What does this teach us about Jesus? **(He is Thomas’s Lord and God. He blessed Thomas for this confession and He blesses anyone who makes the same confession.)**
8. Philippians 2:6—Was Jesus already in the form of God before He became human?
9. Philippians 2:10–11. Compare this to Isaiah 45:22–23. What does that show us about Jesus as God?
10. Colossians 2:9—Is Jesus as lesser God than the Father? **(No! All the fullness of divinity dwell in Him even bodily.)**
11. Titus 2:13—What is Jesus called here? **(Our great God and Savior.)**
12. Hebrews 1:8—What does the Father call the Son? **(“O God.” The Father calls the Son “God.” He says He lasts and reigns forever and ever and is completely righteous. What could be plainer?)**
13. Revelation 5:13–14—Who is all blessing, honor, glory, and power given to? **(The Lamb and the one on the Throne.)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. 1 Corinthians 8:6—This is a quote from the Hebrew *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4). The *Shema* calls God “Lord” in the Greek Old Testament which is what Paul was quoting here. Who does Paul call “Lord” in 1 Corinthians 8:6? **(Paul is basically turning the *Shema* into a trinitarian passage that exalts Jesus as the Lord of the *Shema*. In the previous chapter, Paul also mentions that He has the Spirit of God in Him, which shows this confession comes by the Holy Spirit.)**

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### Lesson 4.2—*Eternality of Christ*

#### Memorize

Q4.2— Was there ever a time when the Son did not exist?

A4.2— “He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” – John 1:2–3

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Arianism is an old heresy that is still seen in many groups today. Its motto was, “there was a time when the Son was not.” What do you think that means? **(They’re saying that the Son needed to be created.)**
2. Why do you think it is common for cults (groups that claim to be Christian, but stray from orthodox biblical doctrine) to claim that the Son is not eternal, but had to be created by the Father? What problems would that cause doctrinally?
3. Can a created being truly be God? Must God be eternal? **(While it is common to speak of the Greek gods, for instance, any god that is not the uncaused first cause is, by definition, not God.)**

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 1:1–4—This is certainly a passage we will repeatedly go to as we study Christ. That is because it is crucial to understanding who He is. John wrote to tell us who Jesus was. The opening of his book is intentionally as definitive a statement he can make about the nature of Christ as the eternal God. Read and discuss:
  - a. 1:1—If Jesus as “the Word” means He is the reality and source of all things, what would that say about whether there was a time when He did not exist.
  - b. 1:1—What does it tell us about Jesus that John’s beginning sounds similar to Genesis 1:1? **(Instead of God being “in the beginning” as the uncaused first cause, we see the Word with God “in the beginning.”)**
  - c. 1:1—Before anything was created, where was the Son? **(With God. And in fact, as we have stressed repeatedly, He was God.)**
  - d. 1:2—What does it tell us that John intentionally repeated the concept that the Son was in the beginning? What is He trying to tell us about Jesus? **(He knew how many people would seek to deny what he’s trying to clearly tell us, so it’s almost as if John is going out of his way to make it clearer and clearer with each sentence that Jesus is not a creation. He is the creator.)**
  - e. 1:3—How many things were made through Him? **(All things.)** Of all the things that are made, how many were made without Him? **(Nothing.)** Who would that include? **(Himself!)**
  - f. 1:4—Where does life come from? **(Him.)** What would that tell us about Him needing to be created? **(If He is the source of all life, how could the source of all life have to be brought into existence to live?)**
2. Colossians 1:15–17—This is a commonly discussed passage when discussing Arianism. Read and discuss:
  - a. 1:15—Who is Jesus? **(The image of the invisible God. If He is the image of the eternal God, then did God’s image need to be created? Was there a time when God did not have an image?)**
  - b. 1:15—“Firstborn of/over all creation.” How would cults twist this to say Jesus is a creation? **(They claim this means Jesus was the first creature to be created. Of course, there are many easy responses to this. First, John 1 already clearly said that is not the case, second, that is not what the verse says. The verse does not say He is the first of all God’s creatures. In fact, Hebrews 1:8–12 says the Son is “forever and ever” and is totally distinct from creation as the creator. Third, what it is actually saying is that Jesus has the preeminence as the firstborn. To be the firstborn is not a statement of Him coming into existence, it is reference to His authority as the only begotten Son of God, as our human representative who is the firstborn from the dead, in whom we share His inheritance. For example, God says He will “make” David—who had many older brothers—His**

**“firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.” This is clearly a reference to rank and authority, not of being created. Or Jeremiah 31:9, Ephraim is referred to as the “firstborn” even though Manasseh was born first. This refers to position, not order of creation.)**

- c. 1:16—How does this verse refute the view that 1:15 says Jesus is created? **(Because the very next thing Paul says is that *all things* were created through Him and for Him. If He created all things, how could it be that He created Himself?)**
- d. 1:17—How are all things held together/consisting? **(in Him. He *is* the sustainer of all reality and creation. He is not created. This is so clear a testimony that Jehovah’s Witnesses felt compelled to mistranslate it to say “all *other* things.” Needless to say, “other” is most certainly not in the Greek.)**
3. Micah 5:2—What are the origins of Jesus who would be born in Bethlehem? **(From everlasting. He is eternal. No beginning and no end.)**
4. Revelation 1:8—What does it imply about Jesus that He is the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End? **(These are words to describe His eternal nature. He has no beginning and Has no end. He *is* the beginning and end in that He is outside of time.)**
5. Philippians 2:6–11—Some cults teach that the Son did not exist until He was created in Mary’s womb. How does this passage refute that? **(Who was it that was in the form of God and chose to empty Himself if He did not already exist? How could someone who did not exist choose to humble Himself?)**
6. John 8:58—How is this a claim of being eternal? **(The Greek Old Testament translates when God tells Moses “I AM WHO I AM” as “The Being One.” He is the one who simply exists. The uncaused first cause. In saying, “I AM” Jesus is claiming to be the Being One. The uncaused first cause.)**
7. John 10:30—If the Son and the Father are one, what would that mean if “there was a time when the Son was not”? **(The Father would be incomplete, a ridiculous thought.)**
8. Hebrews 1:10–12—What does God say about Jesus? **(He laid the foundation of the earth. He created heaven. While they perish because they are created, He will not. He is the one who owns creation. He owns it because He is the creator.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. It is good to sum up with a clear statement of the God we worship. Romans 9:5—Who is Christ? **(The *eternally* blessed God.)**

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### Lesson 4.3—*Logos* (“The Word”)

#### Memorize

Q4.3— Why is the Son called the Word of God? | *Logos*

A4.3— “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” – John 1:18

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why do you think Jesus is called “the Word of God”?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 1:1:18—
  - a. How does this make sense of the many times in Scripture where people (John included) wrote that they *did* see God? **(They received visions. They did not see God in all of His fullness. If God is omnipresent, how could it be possible to see Him in His fullness sitting in a limited space and time? Any vision is a limited one. Additionally, this shows us that the Son is how people see God.)**
  - b. How does Jesus being the one to reveal God to us relate to the concept that He is the “Word”? **(Word is how we make sense of things. Any form of understanding, whether it is written, spoken, thought, etc. is word. Jesus is the Word that reveals God to us.)**
2. John 14:9—We already established that the Father is distinct from the Son. What is Jesus saying? **(He’s not claiming to be the Father. He’s saying that seeing Him is enough to understand what we need to know the Father.)**
3. Hebrews 1:1–2—How did God speak in the past? **(By His prophets.)** How has He revealed Himself to us now? **(By His Son.)**
4. Colossians 1:15—How do we see God? **(The Son. This might seem repetitive from last week, but that is on purpose. We need students to know these verses well.)**
5. One of the common ways Jesus is seen in the Old Testament is as “The Angel of the LORD.” These appearances are called “Christophanies” (appearances of Christ). Before we look at some of these passages, some things must be kept in mind: (1) Jesus is not a created angel (Hebrews 1:4–14 directly refutes that belief). (2) The term “Angel” in these passages does not mean “created spiritual being” but “messenger.” (3) Angels are seen multiple times in Scripture rebuking anyone who tries to worship them or credit them as God. This “Angel” gladly receives worship and is even called “God” or “The LORD.” We are arguing that this Angel of the LORD is the Son revealing Himself in the Old Testament:
  - a. Genesis 16:7–13
    - i. 16:7—Who did Hagar see? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**
    - ii. 16:10—What did the Angel tell her? **(“I” will multiply your descendants. So this “Angel” is the giver of life? Clearly this is not a mere angel.)**
    - iii. 16:13—Who does Moses say spoke to her? **(He was the LORD.)** What does she call Him and say about Him? **(He is the God who sees. She saw this “God” who saw her.)**
  - b. Exodus 3:2–6
    - i. 3:2—Who appeared in the first? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**
    - ii. 3:4—Who called from the middle of the bush? **(The LORD. The Angel is the LORD.)**
    - iii. 3:6—The Angel was not just speaking for God. How do we know? **(He was afraid to “look” upon God. Who was in the bush? The Angel, who is God.)**
  - c. Judges 13:17–22
    - i. 13:17—Who was Manoah talking to? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**
    - ii. 13:19—Who did Manoah offer a sacrifice of worship to? **(The LORD.)**
    - iii. 13:20—Who received the sacrifice at the altar? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**

- iv. 13:21–22—Manoah knew this was the Angel of the LORD, but also says He saw who? **(The LORD. Manoah knew the Angel of the LORD was the LORD.)**
- d. Genesis 22:11–18
  - i. 22:11—Who called from heaven? **(The Angel of the LORD. Notice this isn't an appearance, but a speaking from heaven. Yet it is the Angel saying it.)**
  - ii. 22:12—Who did Abraham not withhold his only son from? **(“Me.” The Angel of the LORD.)**
  - iii. 22:15–16—Who did the Angel of the LORD swear by? **(Himself. See Hebrews 6:13 where He says “God” swore by Himself. The Hebrews author says the Angel is God.)**
  - iv. 22:17–18—Who blessed Abraham, and who did Abraham obey? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**
- 6. Isaiah 6:1–5 shows Isaiah say he “saw” the Lord. Read and discuss what he saw.
- 7. In light of the Isaiah passage, Read John 12:39–41 and tell us how John interpreted Isaiah’s passage. **(John believed Isaiah saw Jesus’s glory.)**
- 8. John 1:14—What is the most precious way Jesus revealed God to us? **(By becoming human, and everything He did for us as truly God and truly man.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Hebrews 4:12–13—How is the written word of God so powerful? **(Because it testifies to the eternal Word of God, Jesus Christ. We are not hidden from *His* sight. He is reading *us* as we read the Bible.)**

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### Lesson 4.4—*Incarnation of Christ (Christ becoming human)*

#### Memorize

Q4.4— How did the Son of God make the Father known?

A4.4— “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Jesus is the Word who became flesh. How is Jesus different from the prophets in revealing God?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 1:14
  - a. Does anyone remember what it means that Jesus is the Word? **(It means He is the source of all things. He is the *logos*, the one who sustains all reality, and He is the one who makes God known.)**
  - b. How is God sending His Son in lowly human form better than God speaking from heaven and just telling us what He is like? **(Jesus spoke to us about who God is by becoming like us. He related to us in all things yet without sin.)**
  - c. What does it mean to behold the Word’s glory in human flesh? **(He did not have a halo around His head. He was glorious in how he lived and spoke. He did all things well.)**
  - d. Who does John describe Jesus as? **(The only begotten of the Father. Meaning the sent One who is the same nature as the Father. This nature is full of grace and truth.)**
  - e. What two things does John say Jesus was full of? **(Grace and truth.)** How would you describe these things? **(They are distinct yet complementary. Grace is a kindness that we do not deserve. Giving to us out of His own kind will. Truth is a declaration of what is accurate whether we receive it or not. To be full of grace and truth shows that Jesus came not only to reveal who God really is in truth, but to grant us a free gift of life in God.)**
2. John 1:17–18
  - a. What came through Moses? How does that compare to what came through Jesus? **(The law is a declaration of what we ought to do/ought not to do. It shows our condemnation in that we cannot keep it. This is ultimately all any of the prophets could give, declarations, utterances from God but no life in and of themselves. But Jesus gave grace and truth. Jesus set us free by the truth, He poured out His grace on us. He did not just come to show us what God is like or what He expects, He came so we could behold Him and be saved.)**
  - b. How did Jesus declare God in a greater way than any prophet? **(He did not say “thus says the Lord.” He showed us the Lord in human flesh.)**
3. Isaiah 7:14—What is Jesus’s name? What does this mean? **(God with us. That is a quick statement about what the incarnation is. It is about God Himself being with us.)**
4. Malachi 3:1—Who was Jesus coming as? **(The Lord they were seeking. He was coming not only to the temple in Jerusalem, but to a body. Jesus referred to His body as a temple.)**
5. Hebrews 2:5–18
  - a. 2:5–8—Who did God put the world in subjection to? **(Humans)**
  - b. 2:5–8—What is the question the Psalmist is asking in this Psalm that is quoted here? **(What is man that God would be mindful of them? Why has God so favored humans?)**
  - c. 2:8–9—Originally, the Psalm appeared to be written about all humans. But who does the Hebrews author say this directly applies to? **(Jesus. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels. That is, He became physical and suffered unto death. He did this that creation would be truly in subjection to man.)**
  - d. 2:10—Why did Jesus come? **(To bring many sons to glory. That is, to redeem fallen humans.)**

- e. 2:10—What is Jesus’s description in this verse? **(The captain of our salvation. The one who guides our salvation.)**
- f. 2:10—How was Jesus, as a human, made perfect? **(Through suffering. He showed us God’s glory by suffering as a human. What God would humble Himself to suffer in our place?)**
- g. 2:11—Who is the one who sanctifies? **(Jesus)** Who are those who are being sanctified? **(Christians)** What does the author say about Christ and Christians? **(They are all *of one*. Meaning, He is our brother. He has become totally like us.)**
- h. 2:11—What is Christ not ashamed to call us? What does this mean? **(“Brethren” or brothers and sisters. He has become like us.)**
- i. 2:12–13—Why did He become like us? **(To declare God’s name to His brothers. Here we see the significance of our main question today. The incarnation is a testimony of God’s name to humans as their brother. He is declaring God’s name in a way that relates to us.)**
- j. 2:14—What have we partaken in? **(Flesh and blood. Human flesh and human blood.)** What did Jesus share in? **(Flesh and blood. This is what it means that He is truly human. He shares our nature. Not our fallenness, but our humanity.)**
- k. 2:14–15—Why did He put on flesh? **(To destroy Satan who had the power of death by tempting Adam and Eve to sin.)**
- l. 2:16—Did Jesus incarnate Himself to be an angel? **(No. But He became human to minister to us.)**
- m. 2:17—Why did He have to become like His brothers? **(To be a merciful and faithful High Priest. As our mediator, He needed to know what it was like to suffer, what it was like to be human, to have compassion on us in our humanity.)**
- n. 2:18—Why is He able to aid us? **(Because He suffered by being tempted. He did not sin though, so He knows peak temptation yet no sin to pollute Him.)**
- 6. Romans 8:3–4
  - a. 8:3—What could the law not do? **(Justify us.)** Why? **(It was weak through the flesh. That is, the law was perfectly good, but our sinful flesh was too weak to obey it.)**
  - b. 8:3—What did God do and how did He do it? **(What the law could not do: justify. He did it by sending His Son in the *likeness of sinful* flesh. He had real human flesh, no doubt. But He did not have sinful flesh. To all the sinners on earth, they saw Him as another fallen human, but while He was indeed human, He was not fallen.)**
  - c. 8:4—Who met the righteous requirements of the law? **(Only the sinless, human, Christ.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. 1 Timothy 2:5—Who is our one mediator? Why? **(Christ. He is truly God and truly man. Because He is both, He can mediate between the two.)**



## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.5—*Birth of Christ*

#### Memorize

Q4.5— How did the Word become flesh?

A4.5— “‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” – Matthew 1:21–23

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why did Christ have to be born of a woman? Why not just descend in human flesh?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Matthew 1:21–23
  - a. What do you see?
  - b. What significance did His name have? What does this tell us about what He came to do? **(It is becoming increasingly common to say Jesus came to save us from pain or anxiety or other things like that. Our sins is the real thing He came to save us from.)**
  - c. How is “save His people from their sins” different than “forgive His people of their sins” (The Bible says Jesus did both)? **(Saving us from our sins means more than just pardoning us so we get a “get out of Hell free card.” It has to do with delivering us out of those sins to have abundant and eternal life in Him.)**
  - d. Matthew is writing to tell us about who Jesus was. What does he sum up about Jesus? **(He is “God with us” with no clarifications.)**
2. Genesis 3:14–15—How does this prophesy a virgin birth? **(Notice that there is no mention of a father of this child. Just the “seed” of a woman. This is strange language. The seed of the woman, the child of the woman alone, will crush the head of Satan.)**
3. Galatians 4:4—Why is the phrase “born of a woman” important? **(Because He was born of a woman, He had a human nature. He was born under the law, having to fully rely on His Father at all times.)**
4. Romans 5:12—How did death spread to all men? **(Through Adam. Through one *man*. Notice, it was Eve who sinned first. But it is through *Adam* that sin spreads. This is why He had to be born of a virgin. No original sin.)**
5. Luke 1:26–27—What details does Luke give about the family Jesus was coming to? **(They were of the house of David. That is, the royal lineage. This is why He had to be born of a woman. He had to be born to the house of David, not just float down from heaven in an arbitrarily created body.)**
6. Luke 1:28—What does the angel say about Mary? **(She should rejoice. She is highly favored. While as protestants we reject Roman Catholicism’s view that we should pray to Mary, it is a sad thing that we fail to honor Mary as a special woman. She was highly favored. This woman had the responsibility and privilege to carry God incarnate in her womb! To say she was blessed among women was certainly no understatement.)**
7. Luke 1:29–33
  - a. 1:31–32—What is said about Jesus here? **(He will be great. He will be the Son of the Highest. He will be given the throne of David.)**
  - b. 1:33—Who will He reign over and what will His kingdom be like? **(The House of Jacob [Israel]. There will be no end to the kingdom.)**
  - c. 1:34–38—What was Mary’s response to this promise? **(She referred to herself as the maidservant of the Lord. She obeyed in humble submission.)**

- d. 1:41–44—What did John the Baptist do in the womb when Mary came in with Jesus in the womb? **(Leaped in the womb. And Elizabeth herself was filled with the Holy Spirit. This is showing that Jesus is certainly more than just a prophet.)**
8. Micah 5:2—Where was Jesus going to be born? **(Bethlehem Ephrathah. Bethlehem was the city of David, to show He is the King in his family line. Ephrathah was a section of Bethlehem where shepherds would take care of sheep. Hence why there were shepherds in the fields nearby.)**
9. Luke 2:1–4—Why is it important that Jesus was born in the city of David? **(Again, to show that He is the Messiah, the King of the Jews.)**
10. Luke 2:7—What do you see? **(The shepherds would raise sheep to be sacrificed in the temple. To make sure that the lamb for the sacrifice was unblemished, they would wrap the lamb in swaddling cloths. It should be clear that Jesus is the lamb of God prepared for sacrifice.)**
11. Many manger scenes have adopted the view that there were an ox and a donkey at the manger. This is even heard in Christmas songs today. This is tradition, but it is based on Isaiah 1:3 and is interesting to consider. What do you think they are seeing? **(Isaiah 1 is God lamenting over the fact that Israel was a sinful nation that had turned backward. They were incapable of considering. Isaiah is filled with more clear prophecies of Jesus's birth and ministry than any other Old Testament book. Many early Christians saw Isaiah 1:3 as a prophecy of Jesus's birth in a manger. Even though the wise men came and said they came to worship the King of the Jews, still the teachers of the law did not know or even consider following them and seeing where He was born. Meanwhile, He was born in a lowly manger, born among an ox and a donkey. Here tradition views an ox in the manger knowing its owner being born, and a donkey witnessing the Lord's crib, all while the wisest men of Israel did not know or even consider what was happening in Bethlehem.)**
12. Luke 2:8–12—What is the news described as? **(Good news. Of great joy.)** Who was the news for? **(All people. Not only to the powerful wise men, but to the lowly shepherds.)**
13. Luke 2:13–14—What did the angels sing? Why?
14. Luke 2:51–52—We are not given significant information about Christ as a child, but what are we told? **(He obeyed and He grew. He was truly man.)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. How have we cheapened Christmas? How might we make it more sacred?

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.6—*Kenosis* (Christ's humility in taking on flesh)

#### Memorize

Q4.6— Did Jesus remain truly God when He was born of the virgin Mary?

A4.6— “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” – Hebrews 13:8

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Can God ever stop being God? What would that mean for reality?
2. How would you describe Jesus being both God and man?
3. Did Jesus lose any of His divinity when He became a man?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our topic today is called “kenosis.” This is the doctrine that when Jesus became a man He voluntarily limited the *use* of His divine attributes so He could submit to the limitations of being human. This does *not* mean He ceased to be God or in any way lost any of His divinity. It simply shows His humility in relying upon His Father. Does that make sense?
2. Hebrews 13:8—How does this answer the question of whether Jesus lost any of His divinity when He became human? **(He is the same. He has never changed. He has changed in putting on flesh, but His divinity has never, and will never, change. This should be a definitive statement we must ensure students understand before we discuss anything further in this lesson: Jesus did NOT cease to be God or lose any of His divine attributes for any period of time. Refusing to use those attributes in humility is different than not having them.)**
3. Philippians 2:5–11
  - a. 2:5–6—What was Jesus like before becoming human? **(“In the form of God.” The word in Greek implies “the nature or character of something, with emphasis upon both the internal and external form.” It is to say that Jesus was in nature God. He had every attribute of divinity.)**
  - b. 2:6—What attitude did He choose to have? **(The Greek seems to say that He did not seek to grasp or hold on to equality with God. That is, He did not need to be the Sender. He did not need to hold on to the equal glory they had before the foundation of the world without becoming incarnate. He was not above becoming human and saying, “I can of Myself do nothing.”)**
  - c. 2:7—What do you see? **(“Made Himself of no reputation” or “emptied Himself.” Is that word “kenosis” which means to completely remove or eliminate elements of high status or rank by eliminating all *privileges* associated with that. That is, He still had His divinity. He still continued to uphold all things, but He refused to use His divinity to make His humanity easier. This is precisely why Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread. He was trying to get Him to use His divinity without considering his human submission to the Father. Jesus always had the power to turn the stones into bread, but He refused to, out of humility.)**
4. Colossians 2:9—How much of the Godhead was in Jesus bodily? **(All the fullness of the Godhead.)**
5. John 1:1, 14—Did He stop being the Word to dwell among us? Did the Word stop being the Word or did the Word put something on? **(He put on flesh. He remained the Word who upholds all things.)**
6. Isaiah 9:6—What is the difference between a child born and a Son given? **(His life as the God-Man began in the womb. But He was always the eternal Son. And He was given to us as the eternal Son. He was Mighty God with us. It would not be true that He was God with us if at any point He ceased to have all the attributes of God.)**
7. John 5:21—Did the Son have authority in and of Himself to give life to whom He will?

8. Hebrews 1:3—If Jesus stopped being God at any point, what would have happened to “all things”? **(They would have stopped being upheld by the word of His power.)**
9. Matthew 20:28—Why did Jesus not use His divinity unless the Father commanded it? **(He came to humbly serve, not be served.)**
10. Revelation 1:17–18—Did Jesus ever cease being the eternal First and the Last? **(No. He has always been the eternal, unchanging God.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Read the following verses from John. After reading all of them, discuss what this tells us about the humility of Jesus. Consider that we know He had all the ability to do whatever He wanted, yet He spoke and acted this way in submission to the Father. John 5:19, 5:30, 5:38, 5:41; 7:16, 7:28; 8:28, 8:42, 8:50; 14:10, 14:24.

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.7–8—*Hypostatic Union (Truly God, Truly Man)*

#### Memorize

Q4.7—Knowing that Jesus is truly God, is He also truly man? | *Hypostatic Union*

A4.7—“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same... Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren” – Hebrews 2:14, 17

Q4.8—How can we explain that Jesus is truly God and truly man?

A4.8—“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” – Colossians 2:9

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Explain what you think it means that Jesus is truly God and truly man.
2. Why did Jesus need to be both God and man?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Hebrews 2:14–17—This was discussed when we studied Christ’s incarnation, but this explains well how we know that Christ was truly man.
  - a. 2:14—What do we partake of? **(Flesh and blood.)**
  - b. 2:14—What did Christ partake of when He was born of a woman? **(Flesh and blood.)** What does that make Him? **(Of our human nature.)**
  - c. 2:17—If Christ were not truly man, would He truly be able to call Himself our brother? **(No. He calls us brothers and sisters specifically because He took our nature.)**
2. Colossians 2:9—Why is this such a great summary statement to describe Christ? How is it better than saying “100% God, 100% man.” **(The 100% line is a common one, but it throws in confusing math into an already difficult to grasp theological statement. It’s hard enough to picture truly human and truly man, why add trying to picture what 200% would look like? We should emphasize saying “truly God, truly man” or something along those lines. Here is where Colossians 2:9 says it better than the creeds. All the fullness of the Godhead (divinity) dwells bodily (in human flesh and blood.)**
3. Christ is truly man. Read and discuss:
  - a. Matthew 4:2—Why emphasize that He was hungry? **(To show He was not cheating by using His divinity. In fact, that’s what the temptation of Christ is all about. Satan knew He had all the divinity in Him. That’s why He was tempting Him to stop fully relying on God as a human so He could use His divinity to help Himself.)** Why did He need to be tempted? **(To suffer with us as our human brother.)**
  - b. Luke 2:52—What does the fact that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man say about His humanity? **(He truly grew. When He was a baby, He was dependent upon Mary to feed Him. He truly humbled Himself.)**
  - c. Philippians 2:7
  - d. 1 Timothy 2:5
  - e. Hebrews 4:15—What if Jesus were not really human, but just God who was pretending to be weak? **(He would not truly be our High Priest.)**
4. Jesus is truly God. Read and discuss:
  - a. John 10:30
  - b. John 20:28
  - c. Titus 2:13
5. Jesus is truly God *and* truly man at the same time. Read and discuss:
  - a. Matthew 8:24–27
    - i. How is Jesus seen as truly man? **(He is asleep. He needs rest.)**

- ii. How is Jesus seen as God? **(He calms the wind and waves.)**
- iii. Compare this story to Psalm 107:23–30 **(He clearly fulfills this as the God who calms the storm. At the same time, He is also with them in the midst of the storm.)**
- b. Mark 2:5–12
  - i. How is Jesus’s humanity seen? **(He is interacting as a teacher. This is why the teachers of the law were horrified to hear Him forgive sins. It never crossed their mind He was God.)**
  - ii. How is Jesus’s divinity seen? **(He forgives sins. Jesus knows they are thinking that only God can forgive sins. Rather than clarifying that He is only forgiving on behalf of God, He doubles down. He says He Himself has authority, even “on earth” [that is, even as a man] to forgive sins.)**
- c. John 1:14
- d. John 11:35, 43–44
  - a. Where is Jesus’s humanity? **(He wept. He prayed to the Father.)**
  - b. Where is His divinity? **(He raised Lazarus. He called Him back from the dead!)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Having gone through this lesson, how would you describe Jesus as God and man?

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.9—*The Son and Father One, Yet Distinct*

**Memorize**

Q4.9— Is the Son the same person as the Father?

A4.9— “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” – John 16:28

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What does it mean that Jesus “came from the Father”?
2. How can the Son and Father be distinct yet still one God?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus prayed to the Father while on this earth?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. John 16:23–33
  - a. 16:23—What does Jesus tell the apostles about their prayers? **(He says they can talk to the Father themselves. They can ask in the name of the Son.)**
  - b. 16:24—In whose name do we talk to the Father? **(The name of Jesus.)**
  - c. 16:25—Who did Jesus come to tell us about? **(The Father. He was not claiming to be the Father. He came to make known the Father.)**
  - d. 16:26–27—What does Jesus say He does not have to do for us? **(Pray to the Father for us. We can come directly to Him.)** Why can we go to the Father ourselves through Jesus? **(The Father Himself loves us.)**
  - e. 16:28—Who did Jesus come forth from? **(The Father.)** Where did Jesus return to? **(The Father)**
  - f. 16:29–32—When everyone else abandoned Him, who did Jesus say would be with Him? **(The Father. The Father is always with the Son.)**
2. John 1:1–2—What do we see about the Father and the Son? **(The Word was with God. He is distinct from the Father. Yet the word was God. He is one with the Father.)**
3. John 17:5—Who had glory before the foundation of the world? **(Both the Father and the Son.)**
4. John 5:19—Who did Jesus make His decisions when He was on this earth? **(As truly sinless man, He submitted to the Father at all times.)**
5. John 8:17–18—Who testified of Jesus? **(Himself and the Father.)**
6. John 20:17—As truly man, what does Jesus call the Father? **(His Father and His God. This is great humility.)**
7. Luke 23:46—Who did Jesus commit Himself to at His death?
8. John 11:41–42—What was Jesus’s prayer life like?
9. John 6:38—Whose will did Jesus seek to do?
10. John 8:42—Where did Jesus come from? **(The words “proceeded forth” mean “left from within.” This is the concept that Jesus came from “the bosom of the Father” in John 1:18**
11. While the Father and the Son are clearly distinct, how are the Father and the Son one?
  - a. Matthew 28:19
  - b. John 10:30
  - c. John 14:9–10
  - d. 2 Corinthians 13:14
  - e. Colossians 1:15
  - f. Hebrews 1:3 **(Express image means essentially a carbon copy. He is everything the Father is in nature.)**

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. To be the Son of God is not to say that Jesus is a lesser form of God than the Father. In fact, it is to say Jesus shares the same nature as the Father. Read and discuss:
  - a. Matthew 26:63–65
  - b. John 1:14
  - c. John 5:18
  - d. John 10:30–33
  - e. John 19:7



## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.10—*Redemption*

#### Memorize

Q4.10— Why did the Son have to become truly man?

A4.10— “God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” – Galatians 4:4–5

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. To “redeem” in the Bible means “to buy” or “to pay a price.” It implies freeing someone who was bound. Considering that, what do you think it means that Jesus redeemed us?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Galatians 4:4–5
  - a. Why was Jesus born as a man under the law? **(To redeem us)**
  - b. What does this passage show about what state we were in when Christ came to save us? **(We were “under the law.”)** How does that relate to the fact that Jesus had to come “under the law.” **(He needed to be under the legal requirements we were under in order to fulfill those requirements and provide a full payment.)**
  - c. What is the result of being bought and freed from the law? **(Adoption as sons. Christ buys us and make us children of God.)**
2. Ephesians 1:7—If redemption was being bought, then what was it paid through? **(Christ’s blood.)** Read Leviticus 17:11 and discuss how this explains Christ’s blood as the payment? **(Life is in the blood. That is what His sacrifice meant. Life for death. Pure life for sinful life. He fulfilled the law and He bought us back with His perfect life.)**
3. 1 Peter 1:17–19
  - a. 1:17—How does Peter say we should conduct ourselves as the redeemed? **(In fear, knowing that God is a fair judge.)**
  - b. 1:18—What are we supposed to know about our redemption? **(We weren’t redeemed with anything that is corruptible.)** What examples does Peter give of corruptible things people might think they can be redeemed by? **(Earthly material like gold or silver. Also aimless conduct based solely on man-made tradition. Either way, the person is seeking to earn their own redemption, to pay their own way.)**
  - c. 1:18—If the only way to be redeemed was to redeem ourselves, what would this mean for our assurance of redemption? **(One, we could never be certain about if we’ve paid in full. Second, biblically speaking we know we never could pay in full. How could we as sinners pay for our own sinful life?)**
  - d. 1:19—What were we redeemed with? How does Peter describe it? **(The precious blood of Christ.)** Why is Christ’s blood precious? **(He was a lamb without spot. A perfect sacrifice.)**
4. Colossians 1:13–14—What was the result of this redemption? **(We were move out of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son of God’s love.)**
5. Titus 2:14
  - a. What does Paul say Jesus redeemed us from here? **(Every lawless deed. He bought us out of that dark living mentioned in Colossians so that we can walk in light.)**
  - b. His redemption was to buy us away from lawless living, but what did He buy us *toward* instead? **(Purity for Himself! He called us to be a special people who are zealous/passionate for good works.)**
  - c. What would it look like to be zealous for good works? Does this describe you? **(This really isn’t meant to make them think in some extraordinary way apart from typical Christian behavior. To be zealous for good works simply means that we do have a passionate desire to please**

**God. If we have no desire to please God, no conviction over our sin at any point, no longing to be changed, there is a serious problem.)**

6. Matthew 5:17—What made Christ's blood precious according to this verse? **(He fulfilled the law through full obedience to it. This is why He was able to redeem us who were under the law.)**
7. Hebrews 9:12—How is Jesus's redemption a real redemption different from the sacrifices in the Old Testament? **(He offered perfect blood, not the blood of animals. The blood of animals *never* took away sin. All sacrifices were intended to point toward the only necessary and true sacrifice of Christ.)**
8. Galatians 3:13—How did this purchase work? **(Christ *became* a curse for us at the cross!)**
9. John 19:30—What does this have to do with redemption? **(The price is *fully* paid.)**
10. 2 Corinthians 3:17—How does our definition of redemption change how we view this verse? **(Liberty/freedom here means we have been fully delivered from a slavery to sin, from being under the law, from being in bondage to him who has the power of death.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Romans 6:14—What is the result of Christ's redemption for us? **(We are not under law, but under grace. We have been purchased. The price is paid in full. We cannot add or take away from this payment. We no longer answer to the law as gauging our righteousness. We are covered in Christ's righteousness.)**
2. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20—How should redemption change how we live? **(We don't own ourselves! Christ bought us. He owns us. He is Lord.)**

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.11–4.12—*Christ the True and Better Adam*

#### Memorize

Q4.11— How does Christ being truly man redeem fallen man?

A4.11— “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” – 1 Corinthians 15:22

Q4.12— Why did Christ have to be a sinless man?

A4.12— “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” – Romans 5:19

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What did Adam’s sin do to all the rest of humanity who would be born in the future?
2. What do you think it means that Jesus is the “true and better Adam”?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Before getting to the main verses from our questions, let’s look at what exactly happened to Adam:
  - a. Genesis 2:16—What did God give to Adam? **(Every tree in the garden.)**
  - b. Genesis 2:17—Which tree could Adam not eat from? Why not? **(Notice how clear God’s command is.)**
  - c. Genesis 2:25—What was the nature of humanity like before sin? **(Unashamed.)**
  - d. Genesis 3:1, 6—Who did the serpent trick and who sinned first? **(Eve)**
  - e. Genesis 3:9—Who did God call to? **(Adam. Not Eve. He is the head.)**
  - f. Genesis 3:19—Knowing that there were many other curses pronounced, what is the final curse mentioned? **(Dust to dust. Man will die. This is a physical death. More than that, spiritual death happened in that now everyone born would be tainted by this fallen nature.)**
2. 1 Corinthians 15:21–22
  - a. 15:21—What is true about every person who is “in Adam”? **(They die.)** Which humans are “in Adam”? **(Every human is born “in Adam.” He is our first father. Only by faith can we be in Christ instead of in Adam. This is why a historical Adam and Eve is crucial to biblical doctrine. No literal Adam would destroy critical doctrines like what Paul is presenting here.)**
  - b. 15:22—What is true about every person who is “in Christ”? **(They will be made alive.)**
3. Romans 3:9—Why are all under sin? **(Because all are born under Adam.)**
4. Romans 3:10–18—What does Paul say is true about “all” humanity? **(In Adam we do not understand, none of us honestly seek God, even when God is presented to us—apart from grace—we will turn aside. Our works are unprofitable for anything good. We are cursed and cursing and do not fear God or know His ways.)**
5. Romans 3:10–18 was meant to explain a doctrine sometimes referred to as “original sin” or “total depravity.” It is to say that we do not start off neutral and then eventually learn to sin. Rather, we sin because we are born sinners (in Adam). We are born in sin (Discuss Psalm 51:5).
6. Romans 5:12–19
  - a. 5:12—How did sin enter the world? **(Through one man. Again, make a note that it was not through one man and woman, but through one man.)**
  - b. 5:12—How did death enter the world? **(Through sin. Sin → Death.)**
  - c. 5:12—Why did death spread to all men? **(Because all sinned. Notice this. He is still talking about Adam. Death spread to all men through Adam. The puritans used to teach their children this way: “In Adam’s fall, we sinned all.” That is to say, we were born in sin. This is why no human is or can be perfect apart from Jesus Christ.)**

- d. 5:13–14—From Adam to Moses there was no law. Yet people still died without a written command from God. Why? **(Because they were still born sinful.)**
- e. 5:15—What two things are compared here? **(Adam’s offense and Christ’s free gift.)** What happened because of Adam’s one offense? **(Death.)** What happened by the grace of Christ? **(Grace.)**
- f. 5:16—What came from Adam’s one offense? **(judgment.)** What was the result of that judgment? **(Condemnation—Guilty.)**
- g. 5:16—Despite us all committing “many offenses” what did Christ’s free gift result in? **(Justification. Being made right with God. Condemnation is a judgment that we are guilty. Justification is a judgment that we are righteous!)**
- h. 5:17—What reigned through Adam’s one offense? **(Death)**
- i. 5:17—Who will reign in life through the one man Christ? **(Everyone who receives the grace of His gift of righteousness. We reign in Christ.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Can you sum up this passage by explaining how this shows that Christ is the true and better Adam? **(Adam is one man that we are *found in*. Being found in Him we are guilty and dead. Christ is a new *one* man in whom we are found. In Him we are righteous and alive. Adam sinned on a tree leading to condemnation for all. Christ offered Himself righteously on a tree leading to justification for all who are found in Him.)**

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.13–4.14—*Christ's Death*

#### Memorize

Q4.13— Why did Christ die?

A4.13— “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” – 1 Corinthians 15:3

Q4.14—Why did the Scriptures demand death for sin?

A4.14— “For the wages of sin is death.” – Romans 6:23

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why is death the consequence for sin?
2. Could God have forgiven sin without requiring death? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean that Christ “died for our sins”?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 1 Corinthians 15:1–4
  - a. 15:1–2—What does Paul say Christians receive, stand in, and are saved by? **(The gospel preached by the apostles.)**
  - b. 15:3—What does it tell us that Paul says he delivered to them “first of all”? **(These are the things that are most important to a Christian faith.)** What does it tell us that Paul “also received” it? **(This was taught before Paul. This is remarkable because 1 Corinthians is one of the earliest New Testament letters written. To be taught before this letter would mean essentially what was taught from the very time Jesus ascended!)**
  - c. 15:3—What is the first thing of importance mentions? **(Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. This is at the center of our faith: A Christ who saved us by His death.)**
  - d. 15:4—What are the next things mentioned? **(His burial and resurrection. Notice, “according to the Scriptures.” This is not a new thing. Paul and the apostles are not trying to say they have updated corrupted Scriptures. They are asking to be tested according to the Scriptures.)**
2. Romans 6:23—What are the wages of sin? What does it mean that sin’s wages are death? **(Wages are something you are paid. Something you have earned. That is all we can earn as sinners in Adam: death. Sin leads to death precisely because God warned Adam that if he sinned he would surely die.)**
3. Ezekiel 18:4—What happens to the soul that sins? **(They shall die. This passage is speaking about not only physical, but spiritual death.)**
4. Hebrews 9:18–22
  - a. 9:18—What is true about the old covenant sacrifices and redemption? **(Even the Old Testament required blood.)**
  - b. 9:19–22—What is the major point of these verses? **(Blood is necessary for real sacrifice. Without it, there is no remission of sins.)**
5. 1 Peter 3:18—What did Christ suffer for? **(Our sins.)** How many times? **(Once.)** Why mention how many times? **(To show that Christ’s sacrifice was totally sufficient and cannot be added to or taken away from for those who are found in Him instead of found in Adam.)**
6. Romans 5:8–9
  - a. 5:8—How is God’s love ultimately demonstrated to us? **(By Christ dying for us even when we were still sinners.)**
  - b. 5:9—What did His blood do for us? **(Justified us. Declared us righteous before God.)** What else does this verse say we are saved from? **(Wrath.)**

7. Isaiah 53:3–12—Paul said Jesus died for our sins “according to the Scriptures.” Here is one Scripture passage he surely was referring to. Read and discuss:
- a. 53:3—How did men treat Christ? (**Despised and rejected Him. John wrote “He came unto His own and His own received Him not.”**) Because He was despised and rejected, what is He called and what are we told about Him? (**He was “A Man of sorrows.” Think about that. One way to define Jesus is by His sorrows! He did this humbly and willingly. He knew what it was to grieve.**)
  - b. 53:4—What did He bear? (**Our griefs. Lit. “sicknesses.”**) What does it mean that “He has borne” our griefs or “carried” our sorrows (lit. “pains.”)? (**He took them upon Himself. This is how His death saved us. He took them from us.**) What did people think was happening to Christ at the cross? (**They thought He was being punished and struck by God.**)
  - c. 53:5—While people thought He was being punished as a guilty man, what was He really being wounded for? (**Our transgressions and our iniquities.**) What was this chastisement for? (**our peace.**) How do we see a great exchange in this passage? How are we healed?
  - d. 53:6—What was true about us? (**We strayed. We were totally lost in Adam.**) What did God do to save us? (**Laid our sins on Jesus. “Iniquity” is a picture of the guiltiness/filthiness of sin.**)
  - e. 53:7—How did Jesus go to the cross? (**Silently and willingly as a sacrifice in our place.**)
  - f. 53:8–9—Who did He suffer with? (**Two guilty thieves on the cross. He was sharing in our guilt!**)
  - g. 53:10—What did it please the Father to do? (**Bruise/crush Him and put Him to grief. Why? Because Jesus was presenting His soul as an offering for sin. It pleased God because we were being set free.**)
  - h. 53:11—What did Jesus do for “many”? (**Justify them. Declare them righteous.**)
  - i. 53:12—Who did He bear the sins of and make intercession for?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. In light of this lesson, how would you describe what Jesus did for us on the cross?

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.15–4.16—*Substitutionary Atonement*

**Memorize**

Q4.15—How did Christ's death pay for sin?

A4.15— "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')." – Galatians 3:13

Q4.16—How did Christ substitute Himself for us through His death?

A4.16— "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." – Isaiah 53:5

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. "Substitutionary atonement" is the doctrine that Christ took the place of sinners, bearing God's wrath on their behalf through His death on the cross. Our sin is replaced with Christ's righteousness. What do you think this means? Why was this the way God paid for sins?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Galatians 3:13
  - a. What did Christ redeem us from? **(The curse of the law. The curse of the law is that God's good and holy law shows that we are indeed sinners. It is a reminder and judgment that sin leads to death.)**
  - b. Who did He redeem us from the curse of the law? **(By becoming a curse for us. This shows a great exchange.)**
  - c. Paul quoted Deuteronomy 21:22–23. Read and discuss how Christ fulfilled this? **(Christ "deserved" not death. But He was put to death as if He did. This was a death on a tree. His body was taken down before nightfall. He was buried that day. He became a curse for us.)**
2. We looked closely at Isaiah 53 last lesson, but what does Isaiah 53:5 show us about substitutionary atonement? **(Look at the exchange. His wounds because of our transgressions. His bruising because of our iniquities. His chastisement for our peace. His stripes for our healing.)**
3. Read and discuss how substitutionary atonement was pointed to in the Old Testament (Remember that no animal sacrifices ever took away sins. Christ is the only real sin bearer):
  - a. Leviticus 16:21–22
  - b. Leviticus 17:11
4. 2 Corinthians 5:18–21
  - a. 5:18—What/Who was Christ reconciling us to through His substitutionary atonement? **(God.)**
  - b. 5:19—Did the Father force the Son to go to the cross? **(No. He was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.)**
  - c. 5:20—What is the message of the apostles? **(Be reconciled to God through Christ's death.)**
  - d. 5:21—How was this reconciliation accomplished? **(Christ knew no sin. Yet God made Him become sin. Why? "For us." Why was it for us? So we could become God's righteousness in Christ.)**
5. Colossians 2:14—What did Christ's death accomplish to make full atonement? **(He wiped out everything that stood against us.)**
6. 1 Peter 2:24—Where were our sins? **(In Christ's body.)** Why? **(So we can die to sin. He did not merely die to get us a get-out-of-hell-free card. He died so we could die to sins. He died so we could live for righteousness.)**
7. 1 Peter 3:18—Where is the exchange? **(The just for the unjust. We were totally unjust/unrighteous. Christ was totally just/righteous. He took our place to make us just/righteous.)**

8. John 1:29—Who did John say Jesus was? How does this show substitutionary atonement? **(He took our sins away by taking them upon Himself.)**
9. Hebrews 2:9—What did Jesus taste for us? **(Death. Again, an exchange.)**
10. Romans 4:25—Where is the substitute? **(He was delivered up for our offenses.)**
11. Romans 8:1—How does Christ's substitution take away all condemnation for those in Him? **(As our perfect substitute who completely took our place, there is no more *us* to be condemned. Only Christ.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Galatians 2:20—What does Paul say is true now for all who have received Christ's sacrifice for their sins? **(It's not them, but Christ who lives in them.)**



**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.17—*Sufficiency of Christ's Death*

**Memorize**

Q4.17—Do we need to pay more after what Jesus paid for us?

A4.17— “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” – Hebrews 10:14

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Why is it important to know that Christ's sacrifice was “once for all”?
2. Why do some people believe that Christ's death only makes a way for them to now earn their own salvation? How does that twist the gospel?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Hebrews 10:10–23
  - a. 10:10—How were we sanctified? What does it mean to be sanctified? **(To be sanctified means to be made holy. In this case, it implies that we are acceptable to God. We can stand before Him. Notice the passive/perfect nature of the words “have been sanctified.” It is passive in that it was done to us, not by us. It is perfect in that it is final. It will not be added to or modified. This sanctification does not come through us after believing in Jesus. It comes through the offering of Jesus Himself.)**
  - b. 10:10—What does “once for all” say about our salvation? **(It will not be undone.)**
  - c. 10:11—What did earthly priests have to do in the Old Testament? **(Make sacrifice after sacrifice every day. This points to their insufficiency to really pay for sins.)**
  - d. 10:12—How is Christ different? **(He paid for is one time. His sacrifice is sufficient to pay for our sins in full. To say that Christ's death sets us up for salvation, but then we need to prove ourselves by good works makes a mockery of Christ's priesthood. In Christ, all sins are paid for. He offered Himself once. For us to offer anything else after that mocks His priesthood.)**
  - e. 10:13–14—How are we perfected? **(By Christ's one offering. As a negative example, Mormonism teaches “we are saved by grace after all that we can do.” This shows the Mormon doctrine that Christ's “atonement” simply means that Christ has given us the grace to now be able to and have the chance to “do” for our salvation. This is, by definition, *not* atonement. It is, by definition, *not* grace. It is, by definition, *not* a sufficient High Priest who perfected us forever. Notice that Hebrews even says we were still needing to be sanctified. And yet, Christ's sacrifice perfected us forever. Our holy living is not to become perfected. It is because we already are perfected in Christ.)**
  - f. 10:15–18—Where there is forgiveness of sins, what does that mean about needing an offering? **(There's no longer a need for another offering. Notice the word “offering” instead of “sacrifice” or “payment.” It is to say that there is nothing left that we can offer God after being fully forgiven by Christ's death.)**
  - g. 10:19–20—What does Christ's perfect sacrifice give us? **(Boldness to enter the Holiest. “The Holiest” or “The Holy of Holies” is the innermost part of the temple where only the High Priest was allowed to go, and only on the day of atonement, to make a sacrifice for the sins of the people. It was separated by a large veil. Hebrews is saying that Christ as our high priest has given *us* access to the Most Holy place! How? Through the tearing of His own flesh, which here represents the dividing veil. He didn't give us a chance to get to God, He tore the veil wide open and gives it freely to whoever will receive it as grace.)**
  - h. 10:21–23—What do we keep regarding this assurance of faith? **(The confession. That's it. *He* is faithful. That's where our sufficient salvation lies, not after all we can do, not in penance,**

**not in confession to human priests, but in our sufficient and one mediator between God and man.)**

2. John 19:30—What does this say about our salvation? **(Christ's work was not to open a new way for us to earn righteousness. It was a debt paid in full. That is what the Greek word actually means. The debt is paid.)**
3. Romans 3:28—What place do works have in making us justified? **(None. Works are a result of being truly justified. They do not add to or take away from justification which is based only in Christ's sufficient sacrifice.)**
4. Philippians 3:9—How does the view that Christians must be good to become justified ignore this verse?
5. 1 John 1:7—Is there any sin that we need to pay for ourselves? **(Neither here nor in purgatory do we need to pay for any sins. Only by the blood!)**
6. Galatians 3:3—How does this verse correct those who think they must punish themselves to pay for sins or work for their salvation? **(Being saved by Christ's blood in the Spirit, are we now going to be so foolish to think we have to add to it by our own will power?)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Hebrews 7:25—How does this verse show Christ's sufficiency to save? **(He is not only able, but able to save to the uttermost. All we have to do is come to God through Him. No other mediator or works are necessary.)**
2. Matthew 11:28-30—In light of everything we have learned, what ought you to do with your sin? **(Come to Jesus.)**

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.18—*The Resurrection of Christ*

**Memorize**

Q4.18—Why did Christ rise from the dead?

A4.18— “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.” – 1 Corinthians 15:21

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Why is the resurrection so critical to the Christian faith?
2. Does Christ’s resurrection tell us anything about what will eventually happen to our own bodies?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 1 Corinthians 15 talks about the importance of the resurrection. Read and discuss
  - a. 15:1–4—What place does the resurrection have in our faith? **(Essential. One cannot be a Christian without a belief that Christ resurrected on the third day according to the Scriptures.)**
  - b. 15:5—Why is it important that Jesus was seen by Peter and the rest of the twelve apostles? **(They were the ones who bore witness of Him with apostolic authority. That means they were not merely people telling us things they made up. Peter even says they did not make stories up but were eyewitnesses [2 Pet 1:16]. Claiming to physically see Him resurrected is significant because it provides opportunity to historically investigate, as opposed to a mere claim that He resurrected but was not seen. Their claims can be investigated.)**
  - c. 15:6—Why is it important that Paul says to speak to these 500? **(1 Corinthians is the earliest written letter in Scripture. Ad 54–56. That is about 21–23 years after Jesus resurrected. To say that there are still many people alive who could testify was to insist that anyone who doubts can go talk to the people living there. Some skeptics try to say, “well those are people who believed in Him.” Of course they were. Why would they see Him and not believe in Him? In any case, if they want testimony from people who did not see Him and yet believed, testimony from an enemy of Christ, one can simply look to Paul.)**
  - d. 15:7–9—What significance is there that Paul saw the resurrected Christ? **(Paul was not one who walked with Him. Paul was an open and powerful enemy of Christ. He had arrested and punished those who professed Christ. He was a highly influential religious leader with everything going for him. Suddenly he made a 180° turn. By his own admission, it was because he saw Christ. Unlike many false prophets who claimed to receive visions, he claimed his vision happened with multiple others on the road. (1) why change? He gained nothing. In fact, he lost everything from a worldly perspective, even ending up beheaded after years in prison, long travels, rejection, abandonment, shipwrecks, and scourging. (2) Why say multiple people, who could fact check you, were with you when this happened if you are making it up? Wouldn’t this be easily disproven? (3) Paul is one of the most frustrating testimonies toward skeptics because he dismantles the argument that it was just made up by the twelve. It destroys the argument that people want to know what enemies of the church had to say about Christ’s resurrection.)**
  - e. 15:12—What is central to preaching Christ? **(Not only His death, but His resurrection.)** What resurrection were some in Corinth saying they did not believe in? **(A future resurrection of the dead. That is, before the final judgment, the dead raised bodily.)**
  - f. 15:13—How does Christ’s resurrection relate to our future resurrection? **(Christ’s resurrection is meant to testify to us that there will be a future bodily resurrection)**
  - g. 15:14–17—If Christ is not risen bodily, then what happens to Christianity? **(It is empty.)**

- h. 15:18–24—What hope is there for the bodies of Christians who have died if there is no resurrection? **(Their bodies are gone forever, which would make our bodies insignificant. But there is a resurrection. Consider the glory the martyrs who willingly suffered in the body will experience when that same body is raised up in glory! Suffering in a body, they will someday be glorified in a body.)**
2. Paul said Christ had to resurrect “according to the Scriptures.” Read and discuss:
  - a. Psalm 16:10
  - b. Hosea 6:2
  - c. Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40
3. Some people claim Christ’s resurrection is just spiritual. We’ve already seen how 1 Corinthians says such a view is not real Christianity, but hopeless nonsense. Read and discuss how Christ rose literally and bodily:
  - a. Matthew 18:5–6—What hope is there in the words “as He said.” **(He never lies. Praise God. They looked for Him. He was not there because He rose just like He said He would. They went to a physical tomb and could not find Him.)**
  - b. Luke 24:6–7—Was any of this only spiritual? **(For heretics who claim His resurrection was only spiritual, in our hearts, what? Was He only delivered into the hands of sinful men and crucified in our hearts? Did the apostles only exist in our hearts? Did first century Israel only exist in our hearts?)**
  - c. John 20:27—What does this tell us about the resurrection? **(He had His same body, only glorified. The holes were still there from the crucifixion. Yet He was in no pain.)**
4. What significance does the resurrection have toward our salvation? Read and discuss:
  - a. Romans 1:4 **(Jesus was declared to be the-Son-of-God-with-Power. A new name. Notice, He did not become the Son of God with power. He was *declared* or *shown* to be the Son of God with Power. This happened by the resurrection. This is when the apostles finally understood.)**
  - b. John 11:25–26
  - c. 1 Peter 1:3 **(New birth by faith is a picture of resurrection. Our old man dies, a new man is raise up. Some day we will experience that physically when Christ returns.)**
  - d. Philippians 3:21—What will our resurrected bodies be like? **(Like His. From lowly to glorious.)**
  - e. John 6:40—What promise does He give to those who are saved?
  - f. Romans 8:11

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. 2 Corinthians 4:14—What hope does Christ’s resurrection give us?

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.19—*Christ the Only Means of Salvation*

**Memorize**

Q4.19— Can anyone save us other than Jesus?

A4.19— “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. If someone said, “All religions lead to the same place,” how would you respond?
2. Why is it offensive to people to say that Jesus is the only way? Wouldn’t it make sense that if He was actually the Son of God, then rejecting Him as that Son of God would mean not having eternal life?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Acts 4:10–12
  - a. 4:10—What did Christ do to testify to the world that He is the only means of salvation? **(Died for us and resurrected with the promise that He would someday resurrect the dead and be the judge.)**
  - b. 4:11–12—Did Peter think all religions can lead to the same place? **(No. There is no salvation is anyone other than Christ.)**
2. Isaiah 43:11—Did the Old Testament show that God Himself needed to be our savior and that we cannot save ourselves?
3. Matthew 7:13–14—How does Jesus describe the way to destruction? The way to life?
4. John 3:18, 36—What is the case for those who do not believe in Christ? **(The wrath of God abides on them. The wrath of God is already upon them.)** How are people saved from wrath? **(Christ came so that belief in Him can remove that wrath.)**
5. John 8:23–24—How certain was Jesus that He is the only way? What happens to those who do not believe in Him? **(They die in their sins.)**
6. John 10:9—Is there any other door? **(Consider explaining to them the illustration in *Pilgrim’s Progress*, where some managed to make it to the road by jumping over a wall rather than entering in by the gate to the narrow way. They were certain they would reach the celestial city and live forever. But when they made it to the final doors, they were rejected because they had not entered through the door where they were washed clean and given access as one who belonged to the King.)**
7. John 14:3–6
  - a. 14:3—Who is the one who is preparing a place for us? **(Notice how it makes no sense to say that all religions lead to the same place. All religions do not even *claim* to lead to the same place. Christianity says our goal is to be with the Son of God forever. Islam says no one can be with Allah. Buddhism does not promise a heaven at all, but an impersonal oneness. The claim that Christianity is too exclusive and that all religions basically lead to the same place shows a great ignorance of what these beliefs hold.)**
  - b. 14:5–6—What did Jesus claim about Himself? How does this show that He was not just a good teacher, but not the Son of God? **(If He was not the only way to the Father, then He would not be a good teacher if what He taught was that He is the only way to the Father.)**
  - c. 1 Timothy 2:5—How does Jesus save us? **(He is our mediator. He is truly God and truly man.)**
8. Romans 10:3–4—Why do people seek salvation apart from Christ? **(To establish their own righteousness. That’s what every other religion is. A desire to establish their own righteousness.)**

9. Galatians 2:21—If other religions or are own effort can save, what would that mean about Christ? **(He died for no reason. If it were possible in any way to be saved without Christ, then Christ died for no purpose.)**
10. Hebrews 7:25—How are people saved? **(Through Him. People who do not go through Him cannot be saved.)**
11. 1 John 5:12—This is a plain verse. What is it saying?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Matthew 25:31–46—What does this mean for us? **(We must evaluate if we know Him. What are we relying on? Our own righteous acts and things we can point Him to? Or knowing Him. Notice that practicing lawlessness is the sign He ultimately points to as evidence they did not know Him. What saves and what condemns in this passage? It is not the works, but the knowing Him. Knowing Him *led* to the works. The key thing to highlight here is that Jesus claims to be the one who judges when He returns in His glory with His angels. He is clearly showing that He is the God who judges. He is showing that salvation is centered directly on our relationship to Him.**

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.20–4.21—*Ascension of Christ*

**Memorize**

Q4.20—Where did Christ go after His resurrection?

A4.20— “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” – Mark 16:19

Q4.21—What did Christ do when He ascended into heaven?

A.21—“Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” – Acts 2:33

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. The ascension of Christ refer to when Jesus, after His resurrection, physically went up into heaven before His disciples in the clouds. What difference does it make that Jesus ascended into heaven in His body in front of the apostles rather than just no longer appearing before them? **(It shows that He continues to have His body. He remains truly God and truly man even in heaven. He will return bodily.)**

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Mark 16:19—Where did Jesus go upon His ascension? **(into heaven.)** Where is He said to be seated? **(At the right hand of God.)**
2. Acts 1:4–11
  - a. 1:4–5—What does Jesus’s ascension have to do with the Holy Spirit? **(Jesus had said in John that He needed to go away so that He could send the Helper. We, as Spirit-filled believers, are now the body of Christ continuing to do “what He began to do and to teach” [Acts 1:1])**
  - b. 1:6—What were the apostles expecting Jesus to do? **(Restore the kingdom to Israel.)**
  - c. 1:7–8—Jesus did not tell them when He would return. What did He emphasize? **(They must witness of Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.)**
  - d. 1:9—How does Luke describe the ascension? **(He emphasized that they watched. They physically saw Him ascend. He was physically taken up. He kept His body. He also emphasizes the clouds.)**
  - e. 1:10–11—What did the angels promise? **(He will come in a similar manner to how He ascended. This is one major reason the ascension is so important. It hints at His second coming.)**
3. Consider the emphasis that Jesus was taken up in a cloud. Read and discuss:
  - a. Mark 14:62
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17
  - c. Daniel 7:13–14
  - d. Revelation 1:7
4. Psalm 110—This is a Psalm that prophesies the coming of the Messiah to judge the world. Of course, we know that Christ (Greek for “Messiah”) is the one who will return to judge the world. He first came lowly in His incarnation, but this Psalm testifies of the ascension and coming resurrection. Read and discuss:
  - a. 110:1—Who is writing this? **(David. The one whose family line the Messiah was supposed to rule from.)** How does this relate to the ascension? **(David prophesied 1,000 years before Christ had ever come that “the LORD” [YHWH God] said to his “Lord” to sit at His right hand. David’s Lord is seated at God’s right hand)**
  - b. 110:4—Who is David’s Lord? **(Priest forever. This is more testimony that “Sit at My right hand” is a reference to the ascension. After He ascended, He is seated at God’s right hand)**

**as High Priest forever. This is the eternal high priestly interceding for us that Hebrews testifies of.)**

- c. 110:5–6—What will Christ eventually do? **(At His return, He will judge. It is this Christ who is at the right hand of God whose “day of wrath” it is.)**
5. John 6:62—What do we learn about the ascension?
6. John 14:2–3—Why did Jesus ascend? **(To prepare a place for us, so He can take us to where He is.)**
7. Ephesians 4:8–10
  - a. 4:8—This is quoting Psalm 68:18, which refers to God being the one who ascended. What did He do because of this ascension? **(He led captivity captive. That is, He defeated our slave masters, sin and death. He gave gifts to men. That is, He poured out His grace upon us.)**
  - b. 4:9 **(This is sometimes used to explain the early creeds attesting that Jesus “descended into hell.” What appears to really be emphasized not only in this text, but also in the creed, is that Christ truly died. He was actually dead.)**
  - c. 4:10—Why did He need to ascend? **(To fill all things. That is, to rule over all things clearly glorified as “The-Son-of-God-with-Power” as Romans 1 calls Him.)**
8. 1 Peter 3:22—What is true about Christ at the right hand of God? **(All things, physical and spiritual, are subject to Him. Of course, as God He already had all authority. What is incredible is that as the humble God-Man who suffered and died and intercedes for us He now has all things in subjection to Himself.)**
9. Romans 8:34—What is He doing at God’s right hand? **(Interceding for us. We will study this more in depth in the next lesson.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Colossians 3:1—Since Christ ascended, what does that say about us as those who are found *in* Christ? **(We are seated with Him!)**
2. Revelation 5:6—This is imagery, but what is the reality that it represents? **(Christ is the Lamb who was slain. He ascended bodily after showing Thomas the wounds in His hands and sides. Marvel at it. The Son of God is the Lamb standing as though He had been slain. That is who we will worship!)**



**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.22—*High Priesthood of Christ*

**Memorize**

Q4.22—How is Christ our High Priest?

A4.22— “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” – Hebrews 7:25

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What is the job of a priest? What does it mean that Jesus is our High Priest?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Before examining our main verse, we should consider what a priest is. The first time we see a priest in the Bible is Genesis 14:18–20. What do we learn about priests here? **(After Abraham helped stop invading kings, he was honored by Melchizedek. A priest blesses a man before God. Abraham paid tithes to him to show that priests should be honored as holy.)**
2. Exodus 28:1–4—What do we learn about priests? **(They were dressed in robes designed for glory and beauty. This was to set them apart from the people as a sacred role)**
3. Exodus 29:1–9, 15–18—This is only a small bit of how they were prepared to be priests, but what do you learn? **(Even the priests had to be consecrated by blood and offerings)**
4. Leviticus 16:3–5, 15, 21–22—Aaron was the high priest. This is the job of the high priest on The Day of Atonement. What do you learn? **(Only the High Priest, and only once a year, could enter the Most Holy Place and make a sacrifice for the sins of all the people. A blood sacrifice paid for the sins of all the people, but it required a High Priest to do it in the presence of God Himself, and this High Priest had to be covered in blood himself because he had to be blameless)**
5. To recap: A priest is someone who intercedes for people to God. He is a mediator who goes between God and man. A priest offers sacrifices to atone for sins. How is Christ our high priest?  
Read and discuss:
  - a) Hebrews 2:14–18
  - b) Hebrews 3:1–2
  - c) Hebrews 4:14 **(Christ helps us hold fast our confession. That is, we can be confident that God saves us because Christ is our High Priest)**
  - d) Hebrews 4:15 **(Christ is a High Priest who shared in what we struggle with. The difference is that He remained holy and sinless. Thus, He is able to be a High Priest)**
  - e) Hebrews 4:16 **(Christ as our High Priest gives us boldness to come to God’s throne for mercy and grace!)**
  - f) Hebrews 5:1–5,8 **(Christ was made a High Priest by obeying God. This is a remarkable thing. God the Son learned obedience. To whom would God ever have to obey if He did not become a man? Yet He became a man and learned what it means to obey. Why? So that He could be our high priest)**
  - g) Hebrews 6:19–20 **(Christ is our High Priest who has not entered merely into the Holy of Holies in the temple like Aaron did. Christ is a High Priest who entered into heaven. He is our High Priest forever.)**
  - h) Hebrews 7:23–25 **(Christ’s priesthood is not limited. Why would we need an earthly priest to absolve our sins when we have Christ who is able to save “to the uttermost.” Focus on these words. Zero in on key words here and talk about it with students: “continuing”, “continues forever”, “unchangeable”, “able”, “to the uttermost”, “come to God through Him”, “always lives”, “intercession”, “for them”. Do *not* rush through these verses. Teach them to see it all!)**
  - i) Hebrews 7:26

- j) Hebrews 7:27 (**Christ's sacrifice was "once for all." He paid it not by our own good deeds, not by our ability to keep the law, not by our commitment to Him, but by offering up Himself. Jesus *truly* paid it *all*. We cannot add to it.)**)
  - k) Hebrews 8:1–2 (**He is *actually* in God's presence for us. Not just a symbol like Aaron was)**)
  - l) Hebrews 9:11–14 (**Not the blood of animals, but the blood of Christ! If God could set up a system where people knew they were atoned for through killing a goat, how much more with the blood of God incarnate pay for all sins?!**)
  - m) Hebrews 9:22 (**Christ's blood is what purifies us)**)
  - n) Hebrews 9:24–26
  - o) Hebrews 10:4–7,10 (**The blood of animals never *actually* paid for sins. It was always a foreshadowing. Christ's blood paid for sins even for those in the Old Testament times before He came.**)
6. Hebrews 10:12–14 (**He has perfected us forever. We do not need earthly priests to intercede for us. Why on earth would we choose them instead of Christ?**)

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Hebrews 10:19–23- What should Christ's priesthood mean for us today? (**It should give us confidence before God that we are indeed loved and His. So many struggle with wondering if God could keep loving them with all the sin they choose. Christ not only died for us, He is currently interceding for us as our High Priest**)

## Section 4: Jesus Christ | *Christology*

### Lesson 4.23—*Return of Christ*

#### Memorize

Q4.23—Now that Jesus is in heaven, what are we waiting for?

A4.23— “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

– Titus 2:13

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What do you know about Christ’s return? **(We are simply trying to get an understanding of what they have heard about the end times in general.)**
2. What difference should Christ’s return make in our lives? How do we prepare?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Read and discuss the promise of Christ’s return:
  - a. Titus 2:13—What is our blessed hope? **(Christ’s return.)** What verb describes what we should be doing now? **(Looking. Sometimes, often as a response to people who only want to discuss end times, people might make the mistake of saying that we should not focus on Christ’s coming at all and instead only focus on how we should live today. In a sense, that is right, but it is precisely because we are constantly looking for the return of Christ who saved us and in whom we are hidden that should motivate us to fulfill our duties now.)**
  - b. John 14:2–3—What did Jesus promise us? **(He will return. When He returns, He will bring us to Himself.)**
  - c. Acts 1:11—What will His return be like? **(Physical. Coming on clouds. Just as He ascended from earth, so He will return to earth to judge.)**
  - d. Hebrews 9:28—Why is He returning? **(To save the saints.)**
2. Matthew 24:44—What does this tell us about Christ’s return? **(It is imminent. We must be ready.)**
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17—Who rises first? **(The dead in Christ. Then those who are Christians are caught up in the air. What about the unsaved? They are not “caught up” in the air. They do not have the promise that He will “come again and take you to Myself.” Christians will be brought to Jesus. But for the unsaved, Jesus will come to them, not to save, but to judge.)**
4. Before Christ’s return to judge the world, we read that there will be a great tribulation upon the earth. This is a seven-year period which will involve a literal antichrist who will deceive the nations, including Israel. He will persecute the people of God. Read and discuss where we get this from:
  - a. Daniel 9:25–27
    - i. 9:24—What are these “weeks”? **(Go slow here [maybe even as you read it. 😊] One week= seven years. We know this not with blurry prophecy speculation, but for a fact. This is based on Genesis 29:27–28 where Jacob serves “a week” for Rachel, and we’re told that means seven years. Leviticus 25:1–10 defines a Jewish system broken up by seven years at a time, with the year of Jubilee happening after seven sevens [49 years])** How many weeks were appointed and who were they appointed for? **(Seventy. For Daniel’s people and his city: the Jews and Jerusalem.)** What will be the end result? **(End of sins. No need for visions or prophecy. The Anointed Christ will be with them once and for all.)**
    - ii. 9:25—What is the timeline in this verse? **(From the time Jerusalem is commanded to be rebuilt until the time of Christ there would be seven and sixty-two weeks. Seven because the rebuilding of the city in Nehemiah 4 took forty-nine years [Seven sevens]. Then from that time, there would be sixty-two sevens left [434 years] until the coming of Christ. This is a perfect prophecy that nails exactly when Christ would**

**be born!. Using that same system of sevens we can interpret what is said about the remaining seven years.)**

- iii. 9:26—What happened after the sixty-two weeks? **(Christ was “cut off.” Daniel prophesied exactly when Christ would come, that He would be killed, and that He would be killed for His people. He also prophesied that the people of “the prince who is to come” will destroy the city and sanctuary. This is Rome destroying Jerusalem in AD 70. But remember, there is still one “week” left. What are those last seven years like?)**
- iv. 9:27—What does “the prince who is to come” do? In the final “week” that has not happened yet? **(Makes a covenant for seven years. But breaks it in the middle of those seven years [3.5 years]. Daniel goes on to say this “prince” persecutes the people of God. This is the antichrist.)**
  - b. 2 Thessalonians 2:8—What happens to the antichrist? **(Christ will destroy Him quickly.)**
- 5. When Christ returns to save His persecuted people, what will this look like?
  - a. Zechariah 14:1–4
  - b. Revelation 19:11–16
- 6. Revelation 20:4–6—What do we see here? **(This appears to be a literal millennial reign on the earth.)**
- 7. Revelation 20:11–15—What happens to those who refused to love the truth so as to be saved?
- 8. Revelation 21:3–4—What are we ultimately looking forward to?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Revelation 22:11—What warning does Christ give?

**Section 4: Jesus Christ | Christology**  
Lesson 4.24—*Christ is the Head of the Church*

**Memorize**

Q4.24—Now that Jesus is in heaven, what are we waiting for?

A4.24— “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” – Ephesians 5:23

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. When it comes to leadership, what does it mean for someone to “the head”?
2. What does it mean that the church is “the body of Christ”?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Ephesians 5:22–27
  - a. 5:22–23—What is the hidden mystery of marriage? (Consider reading 5:32 if you need to.) **(Marriage is meant to be a picture of Christ and the church. This is why submission is what is emphasized repeatedly specifically to wives, and why dying/loving/being the head is emphasized to husbands. To pretend there is ultimately no difference between how to be a good husband or a good wife destroys what marriage is meant to point to.)**
  - b. 5:23—What is Christ said to be here? **(The Savior of the body.)**
  - c. 5:24—How is the church expect to respond to Christ since He is our Husband? **(We should be in subjection to Him in everything. He loves us. Why would we *not* want to subject ourselves to Him?)**
  - d. 5:25—How did Christ love His bride? **(By giving Himself for her. He humbled Himself and became incarnate for us. He was tempted for us. He died for us. He rose for us. He’s preparing a place for us. He’s coming to gather us to Himself. “He giveth and giveth and giveth again.”)**
  - e. 5:26—What is He doing for His bride before He returns? **(Sanctifying and cleansing us with the word.)**
  - f. 5:27—What is the end result of the church? **(A people who are glorious with no spot or wrinkle. No blemish. This is good reason to reject the idea that we should be content to sin all we want as people who are saved. Did Christ save filthy people so He could keep them filthy? God forbid. He is a good husband who cleanses everyone who is His.)**
2. Colossians 1:18—What does this verse show us about Christ as head? **(It is so He can have preeminence. He is first. He is over all things.)**
3. John 15:5—How does this show us Christ’s relationship to the church? **(We abide in Him. We must submit to Him. In doing so, we will have life.)**
4. Revelation 19:5–9—What do you see? **(This is the end result. The wedding supper of the Lamb and a wife who has made herself ready with her righteous deeds. This is Christ and the church.)**
5. 1 Corinthians 12:27—What does it mean that the church is the body of Christ? **(We are continuing to do what He did and taught. We do this by each Christian being gifted in individual ways to build one another up.)**
6. Ephesians 4:11–16
  - a. 4:11—Where did church leaders come from? **(Christ gave us them.)**
  - b. 4:12—Why do church leaders exist? **(To equip saints for ministry. That is, to ensure the *entire* church is working to be Christ’s body.)** What should we all be doing ministry for? **(To edify/build up the body of Christ. All Christians have been gifted to help build up the church in some way.)**

- c. 4:13—What are we all working toward as the church? **(Unity of faith. This unity comes in the knowledge of Christ. We are meant to build ourselves up to live up to the name of being the body of Christ.)**
  - d. 4:14—Why is it important to pursue maturity in Christ? **(So we will not be tossed back and forth by every wind of false teaching.)**
  - e. 4:15—How specifically does the church ensure people are growing up into the head? **(Speaking truth in love. Not facts without love, or fake “tolerance” without God’s Word. Truth *in* love.)**
  - f. 4:16—What is the responsibility of every person in the church? **(Do their share to help the body grow.)**
7. John 10:14–15—What does this show us about Christ’s relationship with the church?

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. 1 John 2:6—How do the verses we studied today impact how we interpret this verse?