Jesus is...A through Z

Jesus—#1 Name

- Arrange tables and chairs.
- Pray for tonight's class.
- Have music playing.
- Take attendance.

20 min.

REVIEW

- Ask review questions from a previous quarter's lessons. Ideas:
  - Toss out candy for correct answers.
  - Form teams and play Bible baseball.
  - Form teams and play tic-tac-toe. (A correct answer allows a team to place its "X" or "O").
  - Play musical chairs. If student answers a question correctly, he/she is NOT out.

- Review previously memorized items. (Use cardboard display board and cards with the names of the books of the Bible, as well as other props.)
  - Books of the Old Testament (quote, sing, race to place cards in order, etc.)
  - Books of the New Testament (quote, sing, race to place cards in order, etc.)
  - Number of books in and divisions of Old and New Testaments
  - The 10 Commandments (quote, sing, review meaning of)
  - The Beatitudes
  - The 12 Disciples
  - Miracles of Jesus Christ
  - Memory work (quote verses memorized)

20 min.

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Students will work on memorizing doctrinal verses. Each student will have his/her own list or book to work from, containing a chart for teachers to initial as students quote the verses one at a time, two at a time, etc. (Teachers: Please read instructions on the Bible memory work charts.)
• Remind students that there will be prizes for those who pass with a score of 80 percent or better.
• Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working! Encourage them to work together to memorize verses, as opposed to distracting each other.
• Divide the class into four groups: two each for 5- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 10-year-olds, one teacher with each group. To cut down on the confusion and noise, two groups may leave the room to practice verses in another classroom, the hallway, etc.
• Coloring pages with the 10 Commandments or other Bible verses are available to help occupy visitors (or younger/distracted students) while their classmates are quoting verses.

RULES & PRAYER

• Review "Power Hour Promises" with the students, reminding them of proper behavior during class.

• Pray together, thanking God for your time together and praying that each person will understand and obey God’s Word and grow into a strong Christian.

BIBLE LESSON


Items Needed: Kid-friendly nativity set; lists of the most popular baby names of last year and 50 years ago (source: http://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/); Bible.

Introduction

Set up the nativity set at the front of the room.

Show the list of the most popular baby names last year. Read the top few. Find any names of class members on the list.

Show the list of the most popular baby names from 50 years ago. Read the top few. Find any names of class members on that list.

The popularity of names changes over time.
• Are any names on both last year’s list and the list from 50 years ago?
• Are there any names from the Bible on the lists?

The Bible says there is one name that is above every other name.
• What is that name? (Jesus!)

The name “Jesus” is above all others, not because it is a popular baby name, but because of its POWERFUL meaning.
• What does Jesus mean? (Savior: “the LORD [Jehovah] saves”)

An angel explained it when he told Joseph what he and Mary were to name their expected baby:
Read Matthew 1:21 from your Bible.
• What does Jesus save people from? (their sins)

Show the “baby Jesus” from the nativity set.
Jesus was born to be our savior.
• He was not born in a hospital or even in His parents’ home because His parents had to travel to what city? (Bethlehem)
• Because there was no room in the inn, what was Jesus’ first bed? (a manger [animal feeding trough])

Jesus was born into very humble (lowly) conditions. His people, the Jews, didn’t recognize Him as their savior. They were looking for a savior who was a warrior, like King David (Jesus’ great-great-great-great-grandfather). They wanted someone to save them from the Romans, who were ruling over them. They didn’t understand that they had a bigger problem than the Romans—and that was their sin.

Jesus forgave people’s sins, which upset the Jewish religious leaders. They said, “Only God can forgive sins.” They didn’t realize Jesus was God in a human body.
• These leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus, so what did they do to Him? (had Him crucified)
• His human body died; however, because Jesus was God, what happened three days later? (He rose from the dead)
Forty days after that, Jesus ascended into heaven. His disciples then went to Jerusalem, and a few days later they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Shortly after that, two of Jesus’ disciples, Peter and John, healed a lame man in Jesus’ name. The religious leaders were very upset about this! They arrested Peter and John and asked them a question:

Read Acts 4:7 from your Bible.

Peter explained that Jesus is the name that not only heals, but saves:

Read Acts 4:10 and 12 from your Bible.

- What is the only name by which we can be saved? (Jesus!)

The religious leaders commanded Peter and John not to speak at all or teach in the name of Jesus. However, Peter and John answered that they couldn’t stop talking about Jesus. Eventually, after more threats, the religious leaders let them go.

Someday Jesus will return to earth as the warrior-king that the Jews were looking for the first time. People will bow down to Him and worship Him as the King that He is:

Read Philippians 2:9-11 from your Bible.

- How many knees are going to bow at the name of Jesus? (every knee)
- How many tongues are going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? (every tongue)

Over the next few weeks we are going to learn about Jesus’ character (who He is) and power (what He does) by exploring His titles and adjectives from A to Z.

- What is a title? (a word or words that describe what someone is or what he/she does; such as, student, teacher, daughter, son, mom, dad, doctor, pastor, etc.)

Tell the students some of your titles and ask them some of theirs.
• **What is an adjective?** *(a word that describes a noun [person, place, or thing]; such as, funny, amazing, tall, pretty, soft, shiny, cool, gigantic, fantastic, etc.)*

Describe the students as a class, using positive adjectives.

Jesus has so many awesome titles and adjectives because He is so amazing: it’s hard to find enough words to describe Him.

**Life Application**

Show the “baby Jesus” from the nativity set again. Jesus was born, grew up, healed people, taught people, loved people, was crucified, and rose again to show us what God is like. And He is no longer a baby in a manger. He is our mighty King!

• **What are some words you would use to describe Jesus?**

Use some of these words as we pray right now, praising and thanking Jesus for who He is and what He does.

Lead the kids in prayer—response to lesson.

---

10 min.

---

**BIBLE SKILLS**

• How many books are in the Bible? *(66)*
• How many books are in the Old Testament? *(39: 3 letters in “Old”; 9 letters in “Testament”)*
• How many books are in the New Testament? *(27: 3 letters in “New” x 9 letters in “Testament” = 27)*
• The New Testament contains 22 letters. Who wrote most of the letters? *(Paul)*

We’re going to look in a couple of Paul’s letters to see how he describes the name of Jesus.

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses.

Find Ephesians 1:21. *(Have a student read this verse aloud.)*
• **What name is far above all other powerful things and every other name that is named?** *(Jesus!)*
Find Colossians 3:17. *(Have a student read this verse aloud.)*
• In whose name are we to do everything? *(Jesus’ name!)*

**Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles.**

_____ 15 min. _____ - _____

**ACTIVITY/SNACK**

Supplies: Copies of “#1 Name Jesus Coloring Pages”
Double-sided tape

Give students one or more coloring pages (there are five different designs). Have students color the pages, and then post them on the main “Jesus is...A through Z” board.