

LESSON AIM: To show the divine nature of Jesus. He was God in the flesh.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Luke 5:18-26, John 1:1, 14

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) In last week's story, why could Mary and Joseph not find Jesus? Where did He go?
- 2) Why did Jesus tell his parents, "I must be about my Father's business" What did that mean?
- 3) How can WE be about our Father's business?
- 4) Review last week's verse; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- If a man claimed to be God, what kind of things should he be able to do? (*possible answers: heal the sick, including restoring sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, make dead people come back to life, control the weather, know what someone is thinking, etc.*)
- Do you know of anything that Jesus did or said that only God could do or say?
- Take a minute to explain that there are four books in the New Testament which are called 'gospels', and tell about the life of Jesus. They are named after the men that wrote them: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- It's like interviewing different people, they are all talking about the same thing, but each person has a different perspective. Because of this, we get a better picture of who Jesus was.

LESSON:

During the times when Jesus lived, many people had very strange ideas about who God was and how you could know Him. Often their ideas were wrong and were based on man's religious traditions rather than the Word of God. Jesus became a man so that people would know what God was really like, because they were actually walking and talking with him in person! So when we now read about all the things Jesus said and did, we also begin to understand what God is really like! A lot of people were surprised to know that God cared about them and loved them!

The gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus "*went about Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness.*" What is the gospel of the kingdom? It is the good news that God will forgive any man or woman of his or her sins if they have a repentant heart and He will come to live inside of them. (*Repentance means to stop what you are doing and turn the opposite way around*). Some people have become trapped in their sins; they know what they are doing is wrong but they just can't seem to stop doing it. They are also being afraid of being found out. So they are guilty and fearful, but they still sin. Jesus came not to judge sinners but to forgive them and to break the power of sin in their life and bring them freedom!

Sometimes Jesus would heal and forgive at the same time. In the book of Luke there is a story about some men whose friend was paralyzed. These men believed that if they could just get their friend to Jesus, he would be healed. Are you that kind of friend that would do anything to get your friends to Jesus?

Have students read Luke 5:18-26.

Jesus was inside of a house and the crowd of people pressing in around Him made it impossible to get anywhere near Jesus. Did they say, “oh well, let’s go home.” No way! These friends came up with an ingenious idea: they carried their friend up on the roof, then started taking apart the roofing tiles and made a huge hole in the ceiling! What would you say if this was your house and some strangers were up there taking it apart?! These guys were serious about getting their friend to Jesus, and they lowered their friend right down in front of Him! I bet Jesus was smiling and maybe even started applauding these friends!

The first thing Jesus said was, *“Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”* The Pharisees (*who were the religious leaders of that day*) were very upset by this and indignantly said, *“Only GOD can forgive sins!”* They were right, but Jesus was God and He proved He was God by saying to the paralyzed man: *“Stand up, pick up your bed and walk to your house.”* Immediately the man stood up, folded up his bed and headed home, glorifying God! Imagine how excited his friends were too!

What two things did Jesus do that only God could do? He forgave sins, and instantly healed a crippled man. The gospels are full of stories about all the things Jesus said and did that proved that He was God. **(If you have time, have the students flip through every page of Luke and look at the subtitles in bold and to raise their hand every time they see something about Jesus doing a miracle.)**

Have students read John 21:25. “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” That’s a lot of things Jesus did! He truly was God in the flesh.

Jesus had authority over sickness and disease because He healed the sick. He had authority over the wind and the sea because on several occasions he stopped life threatening storms by simply speaking to the storm. He had authority over Satan and demons and when he told them to leave, they left! He had authority over death because He actually raised people from the dead. Jesus was a man, but His words and works clearly prove He was God!

Later when Jesus was returning to heaven, He told the disciples, “I am giving you the same authority I have!” That means when Jesus lives inside of us, He can still do miracles through us! Jesus still wants to deliver people from the slavery of sin, and from sickness and disease. Let’s pray and ask Jesus to use us for His Kingdom, to fill us with His power that we would bring people to Jesus. Let’s be like those guys who climbed the roof and took it apart so their friend would be saved and healed!

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12b

(Odd year):

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”
John 1:1**

