



## **Mustard Seed Lesson for December 3, 2006**

**Released on November 29, 2006**

### **"Jesus: The Image of God"**

Printed Text: Colossians 1:15–23

Colossians 1:15–23

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist:

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

Although this week's Scripture text contains some phrases that are difficult to understand, it is wonderfully clear in its presentation of Jesus Christ as God the Son, Creator and Sustainer of everything visible and invisible. It is also clear in placing Jesus Christ at the very center of God's plan for humankind.

Jesus made all things for Himself. He is the Head of the church, and He bought her with His own blood. Therefore in all things we are to give Jesus the preeminence.

Teacher, as you prepare this lesson, ask yourself "How Christ-centered is my own life?" A Christ-centered life is one that considers Christ in every decision, makes obedience to Christ a primary goal of life, and brings honor and joy to the Father, for He delights to see His Son honored. How many times a day do you think about pleasing Christ?

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Show that Jesus deserves the central place in our lives.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Jesus deserves the central place because He is the beloved Son of God.
2. Jesus deserves the central place because He is the Creator and Sustainer of all there is.
3. Children should give Jesus central place because this pleases the Father.

### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

All this quarter's lessons center around Christ, so choose a large picture of Him as a visual aid and focal

point for the quarter, and place it prominently in the room.

For **Beginning the Lesson**, bring a bicycle wheel or another wheel with a hub at the center.

For **Telling the Lesson**, bring several items from nature that are locally available (such as flowers, sand, water, or shells) and a picture or figure of an angel.

For **Telling How to Live**, find the name and location of one people group among whom your church does missionary work.

For **Helping to Remember**, you will need 4-inch cardboard circles and pictures or stickers of Jesus that fit on the circles for each child. Bring alphabet macaroni and glue.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

(Teacher, show the wheel. Let the children hold it.) Look at this wheel. Can you find the center of the wheel? See where all the spokes come together in the center? We call the center the "hub" of the wheel. All the other parts of the wheel turn around the hub, the center.

The hub is very important. Without the hub, the wheel would not hold together. It would not turn properly. It would not be a wheel.

The Bible says that one person is the center of all things. He is the most important person ever. He holds all things together. Without Him, there would not be anything at all. This person is Jesus. Jesus is so important that our dating system is based on His birth. It has been over two thousand years since His birth.

Let us look at what the Bible says about Jesus. Let us see whether we can figure out why the Bible considers Him the center of everything.

## **TELLING THE LESSON**

In the book of Colossians we find some very interesting things about Jesus, God's dear Son. The Apostle Paul wrote these things to believers in the town of Colosse so that they would understand who Jesus is and why He is so important.

Paul said Jesus is God's dear Son (go back to Colossians 1:13 to see to whom the "who" of verse 15 refers). Jesus is "the image of the invisible God." God our Father is a Spirit. We cannot see Him with our human eyes because our eyes are made to see physical things. God is just as real as any body, but He is a spiritual being.

If we want to "see" God, we need only look at Jesus. God allowed His Son to take on a physical body so that we could see Him and understand what He is like. Just as a photograph shows us what a person looks like, so Jesus shows us what God is like. (Teacher, show the picture of Jesus you will be using this quarter.)

Jesus was alive before anything else was ever created, for He is eternal. He is God, and He created everything there is—everything in heaven and everything on earth. Christ created every physical thing we can see and touch—the earth, water, plants, and animals. (Teacher, show examples of created things. Let the children hold them, touch them, smell them, and thank Jesus for making them.)

Christ created everything in the invisible spirit world too—all the angels of different kinds and different positions—to worship and serve Him and to help His people. (Teacher, show angel.)

There are some religions that believe God created Jesus first and then Jesus created everything else. This is wrong. Jesus was not created. He is God, and He has always existed. Jesus was with His Father "in the beginning" (John 1:1).

Jesus created all things for Himself, for His own pleasure and His own purposes. Not only did He create everything; He also holds everything together. He keeps the planets in their orbits, the earth spinning on its axis, and every atom in its place.

Jesus is the most important person. Think about your body. Although you have many important body parts, without your head telling it what to do, your body would be useless.

Jesus is the Head of the church. He is the Leader who tells everyone what to do. This helps us all work together to do what He wants. He is the one who makes the rules because He knows what is right and good.

God showed us how important Jesus is by letting Him be the first to rise permanently from the dead. God wants His dear Son, Jesus, to have the most important place in everything. He

is like the hub at the center of the wheel. He is supposed to have the most important place in everything. God the Father wants it that way. It is His idea to make Jesus the most important one of all.

When Jesus shed His blood on the cross for our sins, He made the only way for anyone to become friends with God. We were far away from God, enemies of God because of our sin. What a wonderful thing it is that Jesus brought us back to God!

Jesus was the only one who could do that. He was the only one who could offer to God a perfect sacrifice. He was the only one who never sinned Himself. His sacrifice on the cross made us friends of God once again. We only have to trust in Him and keep trusting Him. We need only say yes to Jesus. .

This was the message Paul preached. What a wonderful message it still is!

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? If you have trusted in Jesus, He has made you a friend of God. You will want to share this good news with your family and friends.

You will also want to pray for people near and far away so that they too may trust in Jesus. (Teacher, pray for any family members or friends for whose salvation the children are concerned. Pray that they may come to Christ.)

Maybe you are not sure you have trusted Jesus. I would love to pray with you today and help you be sure. I am praying that each of you will trust in Jesus as Savior.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Let the children glue or stick the small pictures of Jesus in the middle of the circles. Write on a chalkboard or poster board names or words from this lesson that tell who Jesus is (let the children try to recall them): "Creator," "God," "Son of God," "head of the church," and so on. Let the children find the appropriate letters in the macaroni and glue them around the outside of the circle. Allow them to dry.

**Lesson Activity:**

**Jesus: The Image of God**

D D D V Q F H H B I B L E W U  
O Z I W G S I E C Q Z Q Y Y E  
O Z E N I P G R A R S K G X C  
L Q D N Y C X N S D U N W R U  
B T S U Y Y J W D T I H E N P  
B E G I N N I N G H B A C S L  
O S M C D I A M T F T O S L E  
T K G F B P Q Y Q O G O R X A  
E S J C K C R H R H R H F N S  
N A G F C E I M G C B O V M I  
B O R D V T W Q K R Z X A U N  
D J S E E Y X I S F P X D O G  
E Q L O Y K X X X P J X D N Z  
B X Y X A Z C P E V E I L E B  
N B J M H T R W M H S B I A A

BEGINNING  
BLOOD  
CROSS  
FIRSTBORN  
PLEASING

BELIEVE  
CHURCH  
DIED  
GOD  
SINS

BIBLE  
CREATOR  
EVERYTHING  
HEAD  
SON

## Jesus: The Image of God Solution

+ H + F + + + + C + + + + + D  
H + C + I + + R + G + + + + O  
+ E + R S R E + N + + + + + O  
+ + A I U A S I + + + + P + L  
+ + N D T H H T E V E I L E B  
+ S + O + T C + B I B L E D +  
+ + R + Y + + + + O + + A I +  
+ + + R + + + + + N R + S E +  
+ B E G I N N I N G O N I D +  
+ V D O G + + + + + S N + +  
E + + + + + + + + + + G + S  
+ + + + + + + + + + + S +  
+ + + + + + + + + + O + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + R + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + C + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)

BEGINNING(2,9,E)

BELIEVE(15,5,W)

BIBLE(9,6,E)

BLOOD(15,5,N)

CHURCH(7,6,NW)

CREATOR(9,1,SW)

CROSS(11,15,NE)

DIED(14,6,S)

EVERYTHING(1,11,NE)

FIRSTBORN(4,1,SE)

GOD(5,10,W)

HEAD(1,2,SE)

PLEASING(13,4,S)

SINS(5,3,SW)

SON(12,10,NW)

### Lesson Summarized By

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