



Who is Jesus?

Outline Plan



Introduction

This is based on a session we did with a small but extremely lively group of 11-13 year olds at a Sunday evening youth group. We took about an hour but it could be covered in less if you don't spend too long on the 20 questions game and don't have too many distractions. The session went well and we have since added some extra ideas and the PowerPoints. Due to the nature of the group, it included a high proportion of games both for fun and as an interactive learning technique. We kept up a good pace in order to keep their attention, slowing it down towards the end. The games gradually become more serious. You will need to select/edit the material according to the needs of your particular group. You should find scope for plenty of versatility here.

Aim/s select from (focus on one main aim)

- To find out what they know especially if some are unchurched.
- To teach them something they don't know already.
- To consider the impressions that different people have of Jesus and why.
- To encourage them to consider their own view of who Jesus is.
- To discuss the famous CS Lewis quote or similar (see background notes)
- To create a sense of mystery that there is much that we don't know about Jesus
- To help them think about the fact that Jesus was totally different from anyone else who ever lived and why.
- To help them to clarify their own thinking & beliefs concerning Jesus.

Resources

Famous people game + blu tack

Game: 'Who is Jesus – people's quotes' – use PowerPoint or paper

Game: 'What did Jesus say about himself?' True/false game – use PowerPoint or paper

Useful web sites for images:

www.rejesus.co.uk/expressions/faces_jesus/

www.revelationillustrated.com

Song: The Outlaw by Larry Norman (album 'Only Visiting this Planet')

<http://www.songlyrics.com/larry-norman/the-outlaw-lyrics>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cq6SFHlkHc>

Short drama sketch: [Drama - Jesus Superhero](#) –or make up your own. We wrote this for a different occasion. It would fit with this but take some time.

Bible references

John 6 & 8

See leader's notes

Programme

Ideas for starter games

- Who are they? Pictures of famous people
Cut out pictures from magazines, which they will easily recognise and stick up around the room beforehand
- 20 questions game on super heroes
Someone thinks of a name of a super hero real or imaginary such as Superman, Batman, or Mr Incredible. Others take it in turn to ask a question and are given a 'yes' or 'no' answer.
- Who is it? Artists impression of Jesus
Show them a range of different pictures of Jesus and ask them to guess who it is. These can be drawings or pictures from films.
- Guess who? Ask everyone to write down 3 facts about themselves on a piece of paper. Fold them and put in a bag. Take out one at a time and read it to the group and see if they can guess who wrote it.

Introduction (or go straight into the games)

What is Jesus famous for? They might suggest

- Teaching
- Miracles (for a short drama sketch see 'Jesus superhero' –or make up your own)
- Followers claim that he rose from the dead (perhaps leave any discussion on this for another time)
- Other?

Discussion games – use a flip chart/board or the PowerPoint presentations

See leaders' background notes or PowerPoint documents

Write the quotes on a large flip chart sheet / board or have a set of hand-outs or use the PowerPoint presentations

- ***What have people said about Jesus?***
Guess who said the following? You will need to give them clues. You could start with fairly obscure clues & gradually make them more obvious.
Who is Jesus –people's quotes –game PowerPoint or flip chart
- ***What did Jesus' followers say about him?***
- ***What did Jesus say about himself?***
Using the 'I am' phrases and other quotes, play a true/false game about Jesus' claims.
What did Jesus say about himself? True/false game PowerPoint or flip chart
- ***What do you think?***

Reflective activity

- Who do you think Jesus was? – list with yes, no, don't know
- Was he mad, bad or real as per C.S. Lewis quote? Or use the 'Liar, Lunatic, Legend or Lord' idea
- The thing I most admire about Jesus is.....

Spiritual/meditative/candle time ideas

Play 'The Outlaw' by Larry Norman from the album 'Only Visiting this Planet' or another reflective piece of music. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cq6SFHlkHc>

Read John 6: 35-40

Prayer theme – that we would get to know Jesus better in the future than we have in the past. (We passed a pencil around and when they received it they either prayed or passed it on to the next person.)

'The Outlaw' has 5 verses with the following themes

Some say he was an

- Outlaw
- Poet – could calm a crowd, make the waves stand still, spoke in parables
- Sorcerer/man of mystery - miracles
- Politician who spoke of being free
- Son of God, a man above all men, came to be a servant & to set us free from sin

Full lyrics on <http://www.songlyrics.com/larry-norman/the-outlaw-lyrics>

Ideas for Going Deeper**Bible bit**

Jesus makes some staggering claims about himself, particularly in the book of John. Some groups may want to take a closer look at some of these. We suggest you select from John 6 and/or John 8.

Mysteries about Jesus?

- When does he first appear in the Bible?
- What does he look like?
- How many names/titles does he have?
- "When he appears – we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2

Show them some pictures of Jesus in the OT/Revelation or read passages such as Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 19:11-16

Discuss the fact that Jesus existed before his arrival at Christmas and that the Bible talks about his glory.

© Brenda Lord

With many thanks to Michael, Matthew, Georgie & Dan

Additional material Chris Hansford

Image: Microsoft clip art