

Breathe

Module: Message of Jesus

Lesson 2: Why did Jesus come to earth?

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- identify key elements in the overarching story of the Bible
- modify and relate a story for a specific audience
- better answer some questions that their friends might have about Jesus

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pen/pencil and paper
- ☐ Copies of “Why Jesus Came” (Appendix A)
- ☐ Two or three children’s stories (e.g. a Robert Munsch book, Dr. Seuss, something specifically for young children)

Pre-lesson preparation:

- Print off the sheets for the Action section
- Pre-set Bibles in all four corners of the room you regularly meet in.

Minds On: (15 minutes)

Have students split into two groups: males and females. Give one volunteer in each group a storybook. Instruct them that they will be reading to the group of students in their group as if those students were three years old (just make sure students aren't acting too silly being "3 years old").

After both groups are done their book, ask:

- What do you do differently when you read to a child?
 - What do you do differently than if you were reading to your mom or dad?
 - How does your voice change? What different things do you choose to do that you might not do if you were just reading to yourself? Why do you suppose you do those things?
- If you were reading to an elderly person, might you read the book differently? How?
- Now imagine you wanted to communicate with someone who spoke a different language? Who might you send? (Try to find someone who speaks that language!)
- What if you wanted to communicate with a group of horses? Would you send a pig? (No! You'd send a horse.) Or what about a gaggle of geese? Would you send a lobster? (No, you'd send a goose.)
- Now imagine you were hoping to clearly communicate a message to a group of people, who would you send? (A person - Prompt: That's one reason why God sent His son, Jesus, to the earth. Jesus was fully human, and fully God, and He came to the earth to live like a human, to experience all the ups and downs of personhood, and to share God's message of love, forgiveness, and grace with all people.)

Action: (40 minutes)

Tell the students that in the next few minutes, they will present the story of the Bible from Creation to Jesus. Remind students not to move until you say “go”. Break your students into four groups by designating them according to height, use your best knowledge of the differences in height of the group but do something like – under 4’10 will stand in that corner, 4’11-5’1 will stand in that corner, 5’2-5’5 will stand in that corner, 5’6+ will stand in that corner. Let them know that each group has a Bible –pre-set in each corner of the room. Tell each group they will have approximately 20 minutes to do the following:

- Read the passage.
- Write a few sentences on their detail page summarizing the main action of the passage.
- Ask you any questions about their passage
- Prepare a 2-3 minute play

The play can have a narrator or only actions or dialogue – whatever the group chooses. Assign each group one of the following roles (and handout the “detail cards” to the appropriate group):

- Creation – This group should clearly convey that God created the world and everything in it; what He created was GOOD and flawless. Point them to Genesis 1 to read together.
- The fall – This group will read together Genesis 3:1-19. They will show that Adam and Eve sinned (doing what God clearly told them not to do) and created consequences for us all. That the “good” world God created was marred by sin. Part of that marring by sin was the disconnection that happened between God and people.
- Israel & the Attempt to Redeem – This group will cover all of Israel’s history! And because that is so lengthy, point them to Acts 13:16-23 to help shorten this history. (Also Hebrews 8:7-13 may also be helpful.) The main point for them to get across is that God set up at plan for Israel to try to follow in hopes of

reconnecting them with Him, but the Israelites could not follow it. They continued to fail God because of their sinful nature.

- Jesus: Our Redeemer – This group will tell how Jesus came to reconnect us with God: to show us God's love, teach us how to live, how he paid the penalty for our sin and granted us forgiveness, and to ushered in God's kingdom. They will check out: John 3:16-21, Acts 13:28-29, and 1 John 3:16.

Have the students present their plays in order. Fill in any blanks that they leave out from the groups' detail cards.

Consolidate/Debrief: (20 minutes)

Breathe In:

Take some time to read together Acts 17:16-32. Make a connection to when they were reading to/being read to as three-year-olds.

Prompt:

Paul does something similar; he presents the Good News message in a way that his listeners can easily understand. For example, he points to the statue they have to the Unknown god, and he makes that God known to them. He makes reference to something their poets have said – he links to their own culture.

Ask the students if there is anything they would like to share that has helped them to understand Jesus better, or on the other hand what do they wish could happen so they could understand the message of Jesus better? (Perhaps share something that has helped you, as the leader: Was it an illustration, a film clip, a metaphor or an act of service?) Give students a moment to reflect and then ask them turn to a partner beside them to answer. Once they have done this, ask if there are two or three who would like to share their answer with the whole group.

Breathe Out:

Have students practice explaining why Jesus came to earth. Do this by pairing them up into discussion partners (partner by numbering 1-(half the number of your group), and 1-half the number of your group again. Have the ones go with ones and the twos with twos. And so on. Have students answer these questions with their partner:

If someone asked you who Jesus is, how would you reply?

If someone asked why he came, what would you say?

How does Paul's example that we just read help to shape one way to share this message?

Can you think of others?

Appendix A

CARD 1: CREATION

This group will read together Genesis 1. They will then explain the process of creation, day-by-day, and convey that God created the world and everything in it. What He created was GOOD and flawless.

CARD 2: THE FALL

This group will read together Genesis 3:1-19. They will show that Adam and Eve sinned (doing what God clearly told them not to do) creating consequences for us all and scarring our relationship with God.

CARD 3: ISRAEL & THE ATTEMPT TO REDEEM

This group will cover all of Israel's history! And because that is so lengthy, point them to read Acts 13-17-23 to help shorten this history. Hebrews 8:7-13 may also be helpful. The main point for them to get across is that God set up a plan for Israel to try to follow in hopes of reconnecting them with Him, but the Israelites could not follow it. They continued to fail God because of their sinful nature. The old covenant was not working. They needed a new covenant.

CARD 4: JESUS

Jesus: Our Redeemer – This group will show how Jesus came to show us God's love, teach us how to live, pay the penalty for our sin and grant us forgiveness, and to usher in God's kingdom. They will check out: John 3:16-21, Acts 13:28-29, and 1John 3:16