

Rooted in Jesus

Lesson 1: Hello my name is...

Objectives:

Students will

- interact with one another
- identify some common misconceptions about Jesus
- compare what the Bible says about Jesus and what culture says about Jesus

Materials Needed

- ☐ Lesson 1 handout
- ☐ Pen for groups of 2-4 students

Minds On

Have students break up into pairs and select a celebrity to discuss. Give them two minutes, and invite them to share all of the information that they know about their chosen celebrity with one another. Then bring the group back together and ask a few of the pairs to share their findings. As the information emerges, inquire as to how they obtained it in the first place. The point that you are trying to get at is that all of the information is second hand, something that has been read in magazines or seen on TV or the Internet. Most likely none of your students will have ever seen or interacted with any of the people they are discussing in person, and so there is a high potential for misinformation in a lot of cases.

Following this, invite your students to return to their pairs and give them one minute each to tell the other person about their best friend or someone close to them that they know very well. When this is done, bring the group back together and ask how this information differed from what they knew about the celebrity discussed previously. The point that you are trying to get at is that this information will be far more personal and it will come from first hand experiences. Students will have a far greater knowledge of their friends simply because they have spent time together and have actually interacted with one another. In this case, they are not relying on what other people have said about a person, but instead they are going to the source.

Action

Say something like: Just as there are a lot of different opinions floating around about celebrities, and it's hard to know what the truth is, many people have very different views about Jesus. One of the reasons that we come together like this is so we can learn more about who Jesus really is so we can figure out what it means to live our lives in the way that God wants us to. In order to do that, we need to figure out how to determine what is actually true about him, and what is false!

If you walked around your school and asked people what they thought of Jesus you would get a whole bunch of different answers. What sorts of things do you think people would say?

Allow students to offer some suggestions. Here are some that you can add if needed.

- A great big vending machine: Getting what we want is just a matter of pushing the right buttons.
- A heavenly butler: he exists to serve us, and do our bidding.
- An absent landlord: he made the world and then checked out of it.

There are also a lot of strange ideas out there about what Jesus said and did, even though the Bible is pretty clear about Jesus, his actions, his character, and his purpose. Even with such a clear record of who Jesus is so many of us know little about Him and we are sometimes left with popular views about Jesus that are just plain wrong. In order to know more about who Jesus really is, we need to interact with him ourselves, rather than just listening to what other people have to say about him.

Let's take a look at some of the opinions that people have about Jesus, and then compare them to what the Bible has to say about him!

Have students work in groups of 2 - 4 to complete the Lesson 1 handout. Give them about 10 minutes, and then bring the group back together and discuss their findings.

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: Did anyone here learn anything about Jesus today that they did not know before? Or did anyone learn anything about Jesus today that is different than what you have heard before?

Solicit responses, and thank each person who shares.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be spending time getting to know the REAL Jesus. This is going to be a journey that will hopefully help us get to know Jesus for who he is rather than just for what other people say about him!

Bring the lesson to a close, praying that God would open everyone's eyes to who he really is, and that he would give your group the strength and wisdom to learn and share the true Jesus everywhere they go.