



# Connect to God

## Leader's Guide

### Week 3

Topic: Who is Jesus?

**PREWORK Before Class:** Read the entire leader's guide and watch the videos online. Notice the time for both the teaching video and testimony video and plan the use of your time accordingly to allow good discussion.

**Study these teaching points covered in the teaching video.**

#### 1- Jesus came to reveal God's love and character to us

##### **Jesus is a Gift for Mankind**

I John 4:9-10 says, *"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* You can see God's love in action through the life of Jesus Christ. He both lived and died so that we can be reunited with God.

##### **Jesus is a Servant as an act of Love**

Philippians 2:6-8 [Jesus], *being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

Matthew 20:28 *"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

##### **Jesus Fed The Hungry as an act of Love**

*"Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.'" (Matthew 15:32).*

##### **Jesus Healed The Sick as an act of Love**

*"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).*

##### **Jesus Preached The Kingdom as an act of Love**

*"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things" (Mark 6:34).*

##### **Jesus Raised The Dead as an act of Love**

*"Jesus wept...once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance" (John 11:35, 38).*

## 2 - Jesus is the Son of God with all the authority of God

### Jesus is the Son of God

In Matthew 11:27, Jesus, the Son of God, said that He came to reveal the Father. *"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."*

John 1:18: *"The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."*

After the Feast of the Passover when Jesus was just 12 years old, He lingered in Jerusalem speaking with the teachers there. When His parents came back looking for Him and told Him that they had been anxiously seeking Him, what was Jesus' reply? *"And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?'"* Luke then records, *"But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them"* (Luke 2:49-50).

### Jesus was given authority

Matthew 28:18, And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**John 6:38.** *"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."*

Jesus had the authority of God. The word "authority" denotes permission. It denotes privilege; it denotes power; it denotes rule, control, influence. When someone has authority, that means they're on top of other people. They have responsibility beyond the norm. They are able to determine things, to decide things, to render judgments, to wield certain rights and privileges. And we say in the home there's authority, resting with the Father, with the parents. In the government there are authorities: the police and those who govern us. In the schools there are authorities. In business, in the plant, in the job – in any dimension of life there are authorities, people who have the privilege, the power, the permission to set the rules, to determine the judgments and the verdicts.

Jesus had authority to teach whatever He wanted to teach. He had authority to heal the sick. He had authority to forgive sin. He had authority to cast out demons. Jesus had tremendous authority and power from God.

## 3 - Jesus was a master teacher

**Luke 15** for example and many other Scriptures show Jesus had a teaching method. He used parables and stories of common objects to teach profound truth. By his simple stories he revealed God in a way his hearers could understand. No wonder it is said of him, "The common people heard him gladly." He was, of course, the master storyteller.

**Matthew 5-7** is Jesus most famous teaching and it was done on a hillside. He never entered a classroom as we know a classroom. He never had a degree as we understand an educational degree, yet all the world was his classroom. No degreed teacher did anything greater than what Jesus Christ did. He was truly and absolutely the Master Teacher and the greatest teacher of all time.

Jesus said much the same thing in **Luke 6:40**, *"Everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher."* As the King James says, *"When a student has been fully formed, he will become like his master."* That is the frightening aspect of teaching. He took a small group of undeveloped, basically uneducated men, mostly from the countryside, and grew them into a band of leaders who after his departure changed the course of world history. The whole Christian movement after 2,000 years can be traced back to Jesus equipping 12 men.

**Matthew 28:19-20**, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* His final command was to go and teach others what He had taught them. Across the world approximately two billion people bear His name. Christianity has spread from Jerusalem to every corner of the world. At this very moment multiplied thousands of missionaries are doing what Jesus said to do: teaching all nations. Therefore, I say to you, if the success of the students is the measure of the teacher, then no teacher was ever so successful as the one and only Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

#### **Scriptures to Review** (many included above in video script):

I John 4:9-10

Matthew 3:13-17

Matthew 11:27

Matthew 14:33

Matthew 16:13-20

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 1:31-32, 35

Hebrews 1

Luke 6:40

#### **Tough questions prep:**

1) Was Jesus really resurrected? Could Jesus' body have been stolen from the tomb?

People have said "Well, maybe robbers stole the body." What's interesting here is that the tomb contained only one thing that would have held any worth to robbers - and that is the grave-clothes, filled with expensive spices. Peter and John heard the rumor that Jesus was risen. They ran to the tomb and found not an empty tomb at all. The valuable grave-clothes were still there, like an empty chrysalis after the butterfly has emerged from the cocoon. And the headpiece, the piece around Jesus' head, had been folded up and put in a separate place. And we're told that when John took one look at that evidence, that was enough: he believed.

Other people have said "Well, maybe the disciples came along, and they stole the body, and began a rumor that Jesus was risen." Leaving aside the fact that the tomb was guarded, the theory is highly improbable, simply from a psychological perspective. These men were depressed, disillusioned. They'd put all their hope in Jesus, and he had died.

Something extraordinary then happened to totally transform those people — so much that they were willing to suffer and die themselves. In later years many of them would be tortured, they themselves would be executed for what they believed about Jesus.....if they knew that Jesus' body was buried in their back garden, would they have been willing to die for what they knew to be a lie?

Others have said "Well, maybe the authorities stole the body." But that is absurd: because if the authorities stole the body, all they needed to do when people were saying "Jesus is risen from the dead" was to produce it ..... but they never did.

### **Class Time:**

#### **Introduce the content and video for this class (in your own words):**

*Last week we learned that the Bible says, "God is love." (1 John 4:16). It is not possible for God to be perfect or holy if God is not also love. In eternity, God will fellowship with us face to face. If God were to be love but have no fellowship, then God would not express His nature. God shows that He is love when He lives in perfect communion with His children. God sent us Jesus as an act of love. Jesus came to forgive us for our sins and bring union between us and God. Jesus is the bridge to our relationship with God. Today we will talk about Jesus and why he came as a human as an act of love. Let's watch today's video.*

#### **Play the teaching video.**

#### **Discussion questions (pages 13 and 14 participants guide):**

1. Why did we need God to come to earth in a human form as Jesus? (nudge them to include more than salvation)
2. If Jesus could live sinless as a human on earth, is it possible for us to become Christlike? Why or why not?
3. If Jesus is our model/teacher for Christian life, what are the steps we should take to learn from him?

#### **Optional Activity as time allows (page 15):**

Have them name the different descriptions of Jesus found in Scripture if you sense they know some Scripture. You can go in circle with letting people pass until they run out or you can let them call out.

NAMES OF JESUS CHRIST – list for you to help them as needed and reference Scriptures

1. Savior (1 Timothy 4:10)
2. Redeemer (Job 19:25)
3. Messiah (1 Nephi 10:4)
4. Lord (John 21:7)
5. Creator (Helaman 14:12)
6. Son of God (2 Nephi 25:19)
7. Only Begotten Son (John 3:16)
8. Beloved Son (Luke 9:35)
9. Holy One (2 Nephi 6:9)
10. Wonderful (Isaiah 9:6)
11. Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)
12. Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
13. Everlasting Father (2 Nephi 19:6)
14. Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
15. King of Kings (Ezekiel 26:7)
16. Head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23)

17. The Almighty (Job 32:8)
18. Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8)
19. Master (Matthew 23:8)
20. King of the Jews (John 19:3)
21. High Priest (Hebrews 3:1)
22. Prophet (Matthew 21:11)
23. Teacher (John 3:2)
24. Immanuel (2 Nephi 17:14)
25. Advocate (1 John 2:1)
26. Mediator (Hebrews 9:15)
27. Judge (Acts 10:42)
28. Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)
29. Author and Finisher of Our Faith (Hebrews 12:2)
30. Lamb of God (1 Nephi 11:21).
31. Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
32. Shepherd and Bishop of Souls (1 Peter 2:25)
33. The Word (John 1:1)
34. Living Water (Jeremiah 17:13)
35. Rock (Deuteronomy 23:4)
36. Bread of Life (John 6:35)
37. True Vine (John 15:1)
38. Branch (Jeremiah 23:5)
39. Bridegroom (Doctrine and Covenants 133:10)
40. Dayspring (Luke 1:78)
41. Shiloh (Genesis 49:10)
42. Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5)
43. Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)
44. Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15)
45. I Am (John 8:58)
46. Son of Man (Moses 7:24)
47. Carpenter (Mark 6:3)
48. The Way (John 14:6)
49. The Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
50. Light of the World (Doctrine and Covenants 10:70)

**Play the short personal testimony video. Discuss, if time remains:** Ask them Jesus has taught them anything in their life or if they have ever thought of Jesus as their teacher?

**Closing / takeaways in your own words:**

1. Jesus came to reveal God's love and character to us.
2. Jesus is the Son of God with all the authority of God.
3. Jesus is the master teacher which is why you should follow him.

**Invite them back next week to learn why did 'Jesus have to die?'**

**Prayer:**

Instead of including a lesson devoted to how to pray, class leaders will model how to pray each of the six weeks of Connect to God. Before you close in prayer, briefly explain the ACTS method of prayer (adoration/praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication) and lead participants through this format.