



The Words of Jesus Series

Words of Jesus – Introduction

Jesus Christ, His Heritage, Nativity & Epiphany

This series of courses is about the words of Jesus Christ. We have been using it in the jail ministry for several years. The courses are based on just the words of Jesus in the New Testament, sort of like a course on just the words in red letters. The courses in the series follow the timeline of Luke and harmonizes the other gospels accordingly. At the conclusion it looks at His words in Acts and in the first three chapters of Revelations.



Context: Luke 1-3, Matthew 1-3, John 1

Lesson 1 – Jesus Appears (Luke 1:1-2:38)

Lesson 2 – Who is Jesus? (John 1:1-34)

Lesson 3 – Wise Men Seek Jesus (Matthew 2:1-23)

This course has no words of Jesus. It focuses on Who He is and how He arrived on earth in the form of a man. Here instead of studying His words, as we do in the other 24 courses in the series, we will look at Who is doing the speaking.

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Lesson 1 –Jesus Appears (Luke 1:1- 2:38)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 1:1-4 In what order did Luke write his account? _____

[1B] Luke 1:26-38 Whose throne is Jesus destined to have? _____

[1C] Luke 1:39-45 Who leaped for joy? _____

[1D] Luke 1:46-56 How many generations will count Mary blessed? _____

[1E] Matthew 1:18-25 She was with child by Who? _____

[1F] Luke 2:1-7 What was Jesus' crib? _____

[1G] Luke 2:8-14 How many angels appeared to the shepherds? _____

[1H] Luke 2:15-20 How did Mary react to the shepherds' story? _____

[1I] Luke 2:21-24 What did they name the baby? _____

[1J] Luke 2:25-33 What was the man's name who was expecting Jesus to appear? _____

[1K] Luke 2:34-35 What will Jesus reveal? _____

[1L] Luke 2:36-38 Who did Anna continue to speak to? _____

[1M] Thinking about Luke 2:34-25: Have you asked Jesus Christ to reveal your heart to you? _____

Think & Pray _____

ONE OF THESE DAYS...



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

— LUKE 2:8-9 NIV

Lesson 1 –Jesus Appears (Luke 1:1- 2:38)

[1A] Luke 1:1-4 In what order did Luke write his account? Consecutive order Lk 1:3 Which is why this series of courses tries to follow Luke's timeline.

[1B] Luke 1:26-38 Whose throne is Jesus destined to have? David's Lk 1:32

[1C] Luke 1:39-45 Who leaped for joy? Elizabeth's baby Lk 1:41 & 44 (John the Baptist)

[1D] Luke 1:46-56 How many generations will count Mary blessed? All of them Lk 1:48

[1E] Matthew 1:18-25 She was with child by Who? The Holy Spirit Mt 1:18

[1F] Luke 2:1-7 What was Jesus' crib? Manger Lk 2:7 Feeding trough for animals

[1G] Luke 2:8-14 How many angels appeared to the shepherds?

One spoke and a host showed up later to sing

[1H] Luke 2:15-20 How did Mary react to the shepherds' story?

She treasured and pondered it in her heart Lk 2:19

[1I] Luke 2:21-24 What did they name the baby? Jesus Lk 2:21 Jesus (or *Yeshua*) means Savior

[1J] Luke 2:25-33 What was the man's name who was expecting Jesus to appear? Simeon Lk 2:25

[1K] Luke 2:34-35 What will Jesus reveal? The thoughts from many hearts Lk 2:35

[1L] Luke 2:36-38 Who did Anna continue to speak to?

All those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem Lk 2:38

[1M] Everything changed for the better when I quit trusting me and started trusting Jesus Christ. He revealed to me that my own heart will deceive me, that there are hidden corners in me that need to be cleaned out, and that love is the activity I was designed for. Occasionally my circumstances become terrible, sometimes relationships are broken and sometimes I still do things that are stupid, sinful and silly. However, the more I obey Him, the more I understand His word, and the more joy I have. The best is yet to come.

For further thought:

(1n) Which one of the people in these passages is most like you? Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, Simeon, or Anna? Why?

(1o) How do you think it felt to be Mary?

(1p) How do you think it felt to be Joseph?

(1q) Compare Psalm 103:17 with Luke 1:50 and Psalm 107:9 with Luke 1:53. What did you learn?

(1r) Compare the poetic prayer of Simeon in Luke 2:28-32 with these Old Testament scriptures: Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:6; Isaiah 49:9; Isaiah 51:4; & Isaiah 60:1-3; and with these New Testament scriptures: Matthew 4:16; Acts 13:47; & Acts 26:23. What is the common theme, if any?

Lesson 2 – Who is Jesus? (John 1:1-34)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] John 1:1-5 What was in Him? _____

[2B] John 1:6-13 Those who receive Jesus Christ get what right? _____

[2C] John 1:14-18 Who has explained God? _____

[2D] Matthew 3:1-6 How did John the Baptist dress? _____

[2E] Luke 3:1-6 What kind of baptism did he preach? _____

[2F] Luke 3:7-14 Where can God raise up children of Abraham? _____

[2G] John 1:19-23 Did John the Baptist claim to be the Christ? _____

[2H] John 1:24-28 What did John the Baptist baptize with? _____

[2I] John 1:29-34 Who baptizes in the Holy Spirit? _____

[2J] Luke 3:15-17 What will the coming One baptize with? _____

[2K] Luke 3:18-20 What did Herod do when John pointed out his sins? _____

[2L] How do we know that "the Word" in John 1:1 is Jesus Christ? (Hint: John 1:14-15, 29-30)

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 2 – Who is Jesus? (John 1:1-34)

[2A] John 1:1-5 What was in Him? The life, the light of men Jn 1:4

[2B] John 1:6-13 Those who receive Jesus Christ get what right?

The right to be children of God Jn 1:12

[2C] John 1:14-18 Who has explained God?

The only begotten god who is in the bosom of the father Jn 1:18

[2D] Matthew 3:1-6 How did John the Baptist dress? Camel's hair garment with a leather belt Mt 3:4

[2E] Luke 3:1-6 What kind of baptism did he preach? Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

[2F] Luke 3:7-14 Where can God raise up children of Abraham? From stones, if He wants Lk 3:8

[2G] John 1:19-23 Did John the Baptist claim to be the Christ? No Jn 1:20

[2H] John 1:24-28 What did John the Baptist baptize with? Water Jn 1:26

[2I] John 1:29-34 Who baptizes in the Holy Spirit? The one on Whom the Spirit descends Jn 1:33

[2J] Luke 3:15-17 What will the coming One baptize with? Holy Spirit and fire Lk 3:16

[2K] Luke 3:18-20 What did Herod do when John pointed out his sins?

Locked him up in prison Lk 3:20

[2L] In John 1:29-30 John the Baptist saw Jesus and said that He has higher rank than him and existed before him. John said the same thing about "the Word" in John 1:14-15 so the Word is Jesus. It is important to notice the phrase "He existed before me." If you followed carefully the story of Jesus' and John's births in Luke 1 and 2 in lesson 1 you know that John the Baptist was born about six months before Jesus. It is also clear that John started preaching publically before Jesus, because Jesus did not start His public ministry until after John baptized Him. So "existed before me" has to mean the same thing as John 1:1 – the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, has always existed. We should listen to His words very carefully. That is what this series of courses is all about – the Words of Jesus.

For further thought:

(2m) Thinking about John 1:1: Does the fact that the Word was both with God and was God at the same time suggest the Trinity? Why or why not?

(2n) What does John 1:4-5 mean by "light" and "life?"

(2o) What does John 1:14 mean when it says, "The word became flesh."

(2p) What does John 1:18 mean by "only begotten God?"

(2q) Compare John 1:23 with Isaiah 40:3. What did you learn?

(2r) John 1:5 says "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it," but it loses something in translation that only the Greek tenses reveal. To get the sense of the Greek tenses you have to add a lot of words in the English that are not there in the Greek, so translators are reluctant to do that. Most of the time it does not matter, and when it does, they add words in italics. It doesn't matter here either, but without it, the English reader misses something pretty. Here it is with the extra words to reveal the Greek tense: "The Light shines continually in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it at all, ever, not even one little moment." Do you agree with me that this is prettier?

(2s) John 1:11 says, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him." Here the gender and number of the pronouns in the Greek are hidden in the English. Again a more wordy translation to try to capture the thought more fully, "He came into His own (as in He came of age to manage His own affairs as an adult and accept His inheritance) and His own people did not recognize Him or accept Him." Does this help our understanding of the verse?

Lesson 3 – Wise Men Seek Jesus (Matthew 2:1-23)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 3:23-38 How old was Jesus when he began His ministry? _____

[3B] Matthew 1:1-17 How many generations were between Abraham and David? _____

[3C] Matthew 2:1 How many magi were there? _____

[3D] Matthew 2:2 How did they know the King of the Jews was born? _____

[3E] Matthew 2:3-5 How did they know where the Messiah was to be born? _____

[3F] Matthew 2:7-10 How did they find Jesus? _____

[3G] Matthew 2:11 When they came in the house and saw Him, what did they do first? _____

[3H] Matthew 2:12 How did they know not to return to Herod? _____

[3I] Matthew 2:13-14 Where did the angel send the family of Jesus? _____

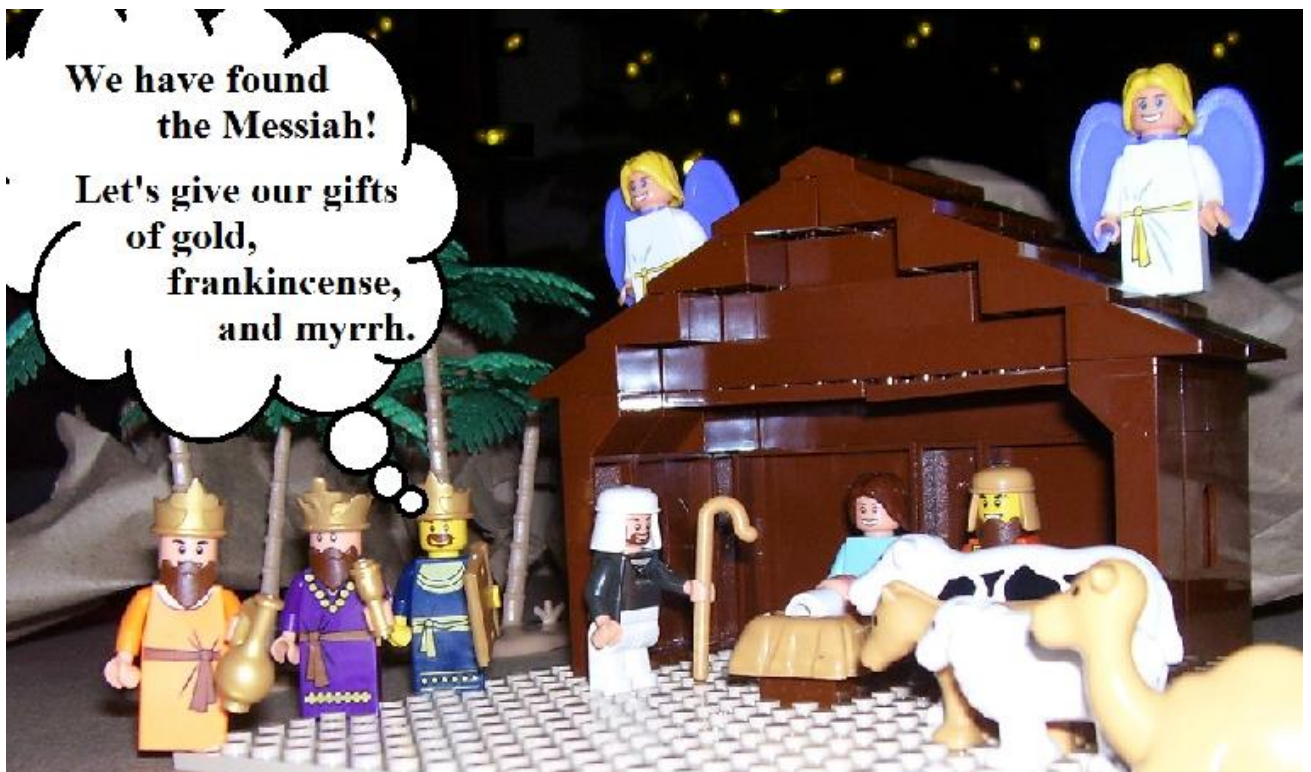
[3J] Matthew 2:16-18 How old were the children Herod had murdered? _____

[3K] Matthew 2:19-23 What city did they go to? _____

[3L] Read these Old Testament scriptures:

Micah 5:2, Jeremiah 23:5, Zechariah 9:9, Hosea 11:1, Numbers 24:8, Jeremiah 31:15
What did you learn?

Think & Pray _____



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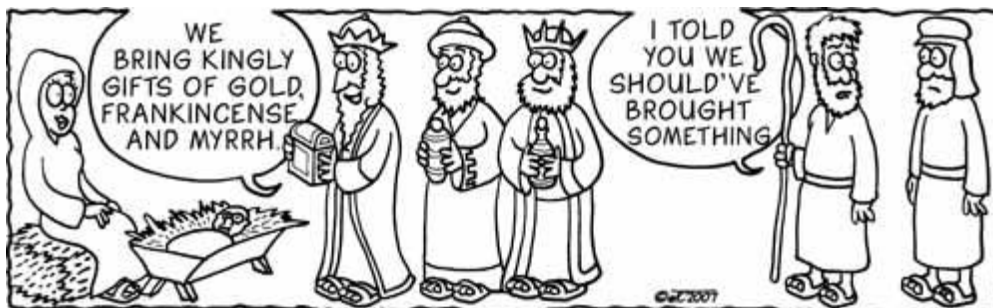
Lesson 3 – Wise Men Seek Jesus (Matthew 2:1-23)

- [3A] Luke 3:23-38 How old was Jesus when he began His ministry? About thirty Lk 3:23
[3B] Matthew 1:1-17 How many generations were between Abraham and David? Fourteen Mt 1:17
[3C] Matthew 2:1 How many magi were there? It does not say
[3D] Matthew 2:2 How did they know the King of the Jews was born? They saw a star
[3E] Matthew 2:3-5 How did they know where the Messiah was to be born? It was written down by a prophet Micah 5:2
[3F] Matthew 2:7-10 How did they find Jesus? The star stood over the place
[3G] Matthew 2:11 When they came in the house and saw Him, what did they do first? Fell on the ground and worshipped Him.
[3H] Matthew 2:12 How did they know not to return to Herod? They were warned in a dream
[3I] Matthew 2:13-14 Where did the angel send the family of Jesus? Egypt
[3J] Matthew 2:16-18 How old were the children Herod had murdered? Two years old and under
[3K] Matthew 2:19-23 What city did they go to? Nazareth

[3L] God had the whole thing planned from the beginning.

For further thought:

- (3m) Thinking about Matthew 2:2: Have you ever seen a birth announcement while looking at the night sky? What is going on here?
- (3n) If the star was guiding them (Matthew 2:9-10) why did they have to stop in Jerusalem and ask directions? (Matthew 2:2)
- (3o) Thinking about Matthew 2:11: If He was born in the stable, why did the magi come in a house?
- (3p) Thinking about Matthew 2:12-13 & 19 & 22: Does God still speak to people in dreams? How do you know? (See also Job 33:15-16)
- (3q) Compare Chronicles 1:1 with Luke 3:36-38. What did you learn?
- (3r) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?
- (3s) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?
- (3t) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?



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