CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 3: Jesus Is Lord

About This Lesson

Salvation is only through Jesus Christ, the sinless sacrifice, who died on a cross and rose again three days later to defeat sin and death. Many young people believe Jesus existed but might not understand that He was more than just a good Teacher. They must recognize that He was the Son of God who had one mission on the earth—to pay the price of our sins. Use this lesson to give everyone an opportunity to make Jesus the Lord of their lives.

Key Takeaway: Jesus is LORD.

Key Verse: John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Teaching Outline:

I. WHO IS JESUS?

A. He is Lord, a liar, or a lunatic.

Matthew 4:1–11 *…If you are the Son of God…You shall not tempt the LORD your God…You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve…*

1. C.S. Lewis famously said, "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

B. According to John 8:37–59, the Pharisees and Jesus debated their spiritual fathers Abraham and God.

1. The religious leaders said Abraham was their father.

John 8: 58 *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

2. Jesus said God was His Father.

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me."*

3. You can only have one spiritual father—either God or the devil. Your actions show who you follow.

John 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

a. Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy in the Pharisees and identified they were following their father, the devil.
b. Each person must make a choice. Who do you choose as your spiritual father?

II. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO GOD, EXCEPT BY JESUS!

A. Jesus is eternal.

John 1:1–3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made."*
John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

B. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:18 *He that believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

C. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14.
Matthew 1:23 *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

D. Jesus was raised from the dead in a physical body.
John 20:27 *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*

E. Jesus was seen alive again.
1 Corinthians 15:6 *After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.*
1 Corinthians 15:17 *And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!*

1. Charles Colson, special counsel/lawyer to Richard Nixon, said, "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

III. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS?

A. We believe in the one true God expressed in 3 persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

B. We believe that Jesus was God in the flesh.

C. We believe that Jesus was crucified, resurrected in a physical body, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God.

D. We believe in Jesus and His resurrection, and we will be resurrected unto eternal life with Him in heaven.

E. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Lead everyone in a salvation prayer or invite young people to go to a leader and pray with them.)

Bottom Line:

You must believe that Jesus is God's Son.

Small Group Time:

1. Faith in Jesus is the only way to be saved. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to pay the price of all sin. Jesus did all the work, but we get all the benefits when we trust in Him alone to forgive our sins and accept the free gift of salvation. That's grace! When we begin our relationship with God, we receive eternal life that starts now and lasts forever with Him in heaven.

Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

- When did you believe in Jesus and ask Him into your heart?
- Was there something or someone who convinced you that you needed to make that decision?

2. We should be bold about our faith in Jesus!

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.*

- When have you shared your faith in Jesus with a friend or family member?
- What are some ways you can let people know that you are a Christian?
- What could share with someone that convinced you that God is real? (Guide the youth to think about something that has happened in their life that convinced them that God is real, such as ways Jesus showed He loved and cared about them or ways they know that He has helped them.)

Declaration:

"Because Jesus is LORD and because Jesus is alive—He can still transform lives! I want Jesus to transform my life!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who is Jesus to you, and why?
- **Pray:** Spend time praising Jesus for who He is and thanking Him for what He has done. I will challenge myself to pray for ___ minutes every day.
- **Read:** Read John 10 this week and picture the Good Shepherd coming to find YOU. Journal about how this makes you feel about Jesus and what your response to Him is.
- **Live It:** Be intentional this week about letting others know that you believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the only way to have eternal life in heaven. Will you post something on social media, wear a cross or Christian t-shirt, choose to read your Bible in public, or pray for someone at school?
- **Create:** Look online for creation stories in other cultures. Choose one and see which parts match the Genesis account and which parts are different. Make a spreadsheet, explain it and the flaws on a short video, or draw the story as a picture.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What sport is so scary or intimidating that someone would have to pay you a million dollars just to try it once?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Check online for an activity that centers around something pivotal and won't work without a key item or ingredient. You want to show that Jesus is pivotal to salvation—Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Giving Time: 2 Thessalonians 3:10 *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

The spirit of the world is to consume and be critical. The spirit of God is to contribute and create. When you are part of a church and contributing, you are fed fresh revelation from God.

NOTE: If you don't feel comfortable leading a salvation invitation and prayer, talk with the pastor and prepare a few words and prayer to read at the end of the lesson. Also, check for a booklet or Bible that your church gives to new Christians and have some ready to give out.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: If you have a "no cell phone" policy in your group, that's awesome. If the youth still bring phones, here's an idea that gives an opportunity to access info on their phones—and then the phones are put away. Have pairs or small groups see how many different languages they can find the name Jesus, such as Yesu in Swahili. Also, have them see how many languages use "Jesus."

Biblical Worldview: Today's lesson focused on Jesus and pointed out that believing Jesus is the Son of God and Savior is essential to a biblical worldview. One foundational verse is John 14:6, *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"* This verse can be personalized and spoken to each young person: "Jesus said to Blake, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. Blake can't come to the Father except through Me.'" Have the young people say the verse inserting the personal pronouns "me" and "I" to show they have a biblical worldview. When young people choose to live a biblical worldview, they know the truth and should want to share that truth with other youth who are searching for truth and meaning in life.

Outreach/Missions: Challenge the young people to create a tract, picture, meme, or text message to share with other young people to explain salvation in a way they will understand. Encourage students at the same school to work together and create something that targets young people at their school. Spend time sharing ideas and make plans to create something and to distribute it.