

THE GOSPELS MAN

LEADER'S GUIDE BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE'

BIG PICTURE:

JESUS - MAN

BIG IDEA:

DOWN TO EARTH

BIG POINT:

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

BIG WORD:

SO THE WORD BECAME HUMAN AND MADE HIS HOME AMONG US. HE WAS FULL OF UNFAILING LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS. AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE FATHER'S ONE AND ONLY SON. JOHN 1:14 (NLT)

BIG

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture 'JESUS - MAN'. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'. The BIG 'The Gospels' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

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BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

BIG IDEA: DOWN TO EARTH

BIG POINT: JESUS WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

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JOHN 1:14 (NLT)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- discover that Jesus was both fully God and fully man.
- learn about Jesus as a young boy at the temple.
- be introduced to The Gospels as an account of Jesus' life on earth.

BUILD YOUR MESSAGE

Use the outline in the following pages to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry. Pray, read the scripture references and choose which elements best suit your audience. Then, prepare by gathering any supplies needed.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Luke 2:41-52, John 1:1-3, John 1:14, John 21:25, Hebrews 2:14

MY MESSAGE PLAN:

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

BIG IDEA: DOWN TO EARTH**BIG POINT: JESUS WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN****INTRO** NOT YOUR USUAL BOOK

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Screen images supplied with print material files.

The Bible is not your usual book. It's actually 66 books! 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The books of the Bible are written by different authors all inspired by God. The New Testament starts with the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are called 'The Gospels' and they are records of Jesus' time on earth, from His birth to His death and rising again. In this series we are going to look at the person of Jesus from the lens or view of the four Gospels.

(Show screen image 1 - Book of Matthew)

The Gospel of Matthew was written by a man named... Matthew! Matthew was one of Jesus disciples who left his job as a tax collector to follow Jesus. Matthew wrote his account of the events of Jesus' life to a Jewish audience to help them understand that Jesus was the Messiah.

(Show screen image 2 - Book of Mark)

The Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark who wrote down the stories that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, told him. The book of Mark was the first of the four gospels that was written and the other gospels written after, used Mark as a source. This book tells us about Jesus' life and particularly all about the amazing miracles Jesus performed, like healing the sick.

(Show screen image 3 - Book of Luke)

I wonder if anyone can guess the name of the man who wrote the book of Luke? (Invite children to raise their hand or call aloud "Luke!") That's right, it was written by a man called Luke. Luke was one of the first Christians, he was a doctor who travelled with the Apostle Paul visiting the first Christian churches. Luke also wrote the book of Acts. The theme throughout the book of Luke is that Jesus is the Saviour for ALL people.

(Show screen image 4 - Book of John)

I bet you will never guess who wrote the book of John? (Invite children to raise their hand or call aloud "John!") You're wrong! It was Susan! Just kidding, you're right, the book of John was written by a man named John. He was one of Jesus' disciples, so he had a front row seat to all that Jesus did and everything Jesus said. John wrote his gospel so that anyone who reads it would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and can have life in the Name of Jesus.

(Show screen image 5 - All the books together)

As you read the Gospel books, you'll notice that there are some similarities, some of the same stories are told in all four gospels. You might even notice some differences where a story or some of Jesus teaching is only told in some of the gospel books. Thanks to The Gospels we can get to know more about Jesus the Man, the Messiah and His teaching and miracles.

Reminder:

This is a great time to play the 'Big Story' video to your group. We find it breaks up your Big Message Live really well and keeps the children focussed.

STORYTELLING YOUNG JESUS

Raise your hand if you're 12 years old? What is the average 12 year old boy like? Do they like to eat pizza and skateboard? Play computer games and watch You Tube? Maybe they like to read or play football?

What do you think Jesus was like as a child? The Bible doesn't tell us much about what Jesus was like as a child. There is one story we read in Luke 2:41-52 that gives us a glimpse into what Jesus was like when He was 12 years old.

He travelled with a big group of family and friends from His hometown to Jerusalem for the yearly Feast of the Passover. A big festival to remember how God freed His people from Egypt.

Once the big celebration had ended Mary, Joseph and all their travelling companions packed up their things and started on their long journey home. But they left behind one important thing... They forgot Jesus!

(Share a quick anecdote of a time your parents may have forgotten you and left you behind e.g. When I was 12 everyone in my family volunteered in different areas of church. We would come to church in two cars. One Sunday morning after church, each of my parents left for home without me, thinking I was in the other car. It wasn't until they all arrived home that they realised they had left someone behind... me!)

That's what happened to Jesus! His parents assumed He was with another family member or friend. When they realised He wasn't with them they began to race around asking all the other travellers, "Have you seen our young boy?" But He was nowhere to be found. Realising they must have left Him behind, they rushed back as fast as they could to the city of Jerusalem to search for Him.

It took three days of searching before they finally found Him in the Temple with the teachers of the Law. Jesus had been there the whole time, discussing the Word of God with the teachers. He listened and asked many questions. The teachers were amazed by Jesus' answers and how much He knew about God. Mary and Joseph were so relieved to have found Him, "Your father and I have been worried about you." Mary said.

"Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's House?", Jesus replied. Mary and Joseph didn't understand what He meant. Jesus returned home to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and as He grew up taller He also grew in wisdom and in favour with God and people.

We don't know much about when Jesus was a young boy, but this story helps us to remember that while Jesus was God's Son, divine and holy, He was also a person just like you and me. Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV) "In his very nature he was God. Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact. Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. He was made just like human beings." Jesus was fully God and fully man.

BIG IDEA: DOWN TO EARTH**BIG POINT: JESUS WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN****OBJECT LESSON** FULLY MAN FULLY GOD

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Three clear water containers (two smaller and one large enough to fit the contents of the smaller ones combined), water, yellow food colouring, blue food colouring, Labels.

Set out two clear water containers, one labelled MAN and one labelled GOD.

You might think Jesus, when He was here on earth, was totally and completely human, that He left all of His divine God nature behind and was totally human just like us. *(Fill the container labelled 'MAN' with water that is tinted with blue food colouring.)*

Or you might think that Jesus was totally and completely divine and supernatural. That He was totally 'GOD' and not human at all. *(Fill the container labelled 'GOD' with water that is tinted with yellow food colouring.)*

(Pointing to the container labelled 'MAN') Jesus was human just like us, He felt pain, had emotions, got hungry and needed sleep and rest. *(Pointing to the container labelled 'GOD')* And Jesus was totally divine, supernatural and God in nature. Storms obeyed His voice, He walked on water and He rose from the dead!

John 1:14 (NLT), "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." In Jesus we see God take on human form and in Jesus we see the glory of God. *(Take out the third, larger, container and pour the blue and yellow water from the GOD and MAN containers into the larger one so the colours mix together.)* Jesus was totally and completely human, MAN in nature, but at the same time He is totally and completely GOD in nature. See how these two liquids have mixed together, Jesus is fully MAN and fully GOD at the same time. It can be hard to find anything on earth that totally describes Jesus, as there is no one like Him! Nothing on earth than can explain the mystery of God dwelling among His creation. This is just an illustration to help us understand that Jesus was a real human person but at the same time was completely God, supernatural and holy.

POINTS**1. FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN.**

SUPPLIES NEEDED: A rope, a sign that says MAN and a sign that says GOD

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; The Gospels, tell us all about Jesus. We see Jesus through the lens of these books and we discover a man unlike any other. Jesus was God in human flesh. God the creator of Heaven and earth humbled Himself and dwelled among us, within the world He created. John 1:14 (NLT), "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

Jesus wasn't floating around earth like a glowing angel, He was a real person, flesh and blood just like you and me.

Let's think about that for a minute, Jesus was God (Place sign "GOD" at one end) and Jesus was a man (Place sign "MAN" at the other end). Think of this like a scale, (Hold a length of rope between the two signs) do you think Jesus was 50% man and 50% God? (Stand in the middle of the scale at the half way mark) Or maybe mostly God and just a little bit man? (Stand nearer to the GOD end of the rope.) Or did He leave most of His "God" nature behind and lived as a Man? (Stand close to the MAN end of the rope.)

Jesus was actually both 100% God and 100% Man all at the same time. Fully God, fully man. Jesus came for us, to rescue people from sin. To do that, Jesus became flesh and blood just like us. Hebrews 2:14 (NIRV), "Those children have bodies made out of flesh and blood. So Jesus became human like them in order to die for them. By doing this, he could break the power of the devil."

BIG IDEA: DOWN TO EARTH**BIG POINT: JESUS WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN**

2. YOUNG JESUS

This is a photo of me when I was little, Yep! Soooo cuuuute (Share a story and a photo about you as a child, something quirky and funny.) E.g. When I was little, for a whole week I would only say one word, "potato", no matter what anyone asked me I only said, "potato". When I was sad (in a sad voice), "potato". When I was happy, (in a happy voice), "Potato!". You get the idea, I was a quirky kid! Imagine what Jesus might have been like as a little kid.

Jesus entered the world as little newborn baby and He grew up just like you and me. He didn't instantly become an adult and His public teaching and ministry didn't begin until He was 30 years old. The Bible doesn't tell us much about what Jesus was like from 0-30 years old, we don't know too much about His childhood at all.

Do you think Jesus got detention as a kid? Or would He have been a perfect student? What the Bible does tell us in a short passage in Luke chapter 2, is that Jesus spent time in the temple courts learning all about the scriptures from the teachers. Luke 2:52 (NIV), "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

3. THE GOSPELS TELL US ABOUT JESUS' LIFE ON EARTH

It was only around 2,000 years ago that Jesus was here on earth, but He existed long before that, in fact He existed from the very beginning of time itself. John 1:1-3 (NIRV), "In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him."

God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, three persons of God were all there in the very beginning. At the appointed time, Jesus came to earth. John 1:14 (NLT), "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

The Gospels tell us about Jesus' life on earth, we learn about His birth, His life, His miracles, His teaching and His death and resurrection. We can learn so much about Jesus from the Bible. Even with all that has been written in God's Word for us to discover about Jesus, there is a lot more that He did while he was on earth. John 21:25 (NIV) says, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

Jesus came down to earth, fully God and fully man.