



1

Jesus's Mission

Key Theme

- Jesus came to save sinners.

Key Passages

- John 3:16, 3:18, 17:1, 17:3

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Jesus glorified the Father.
- Explain what Jesus did for sinners.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by putting together the Memory Verse Review Puzzle. If time allows, have some students recite and/or read the verse from their puzzle.



Activity 1: Jesus's Mission Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus's Mission Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus came to earth with a purpose—a mission. When His work was done, He glorified the Father. He was obedient to His Father even unto death. And His death provided eternal life with God for people who believe in Him.



Activity 2: Jesus's Mission Beanbag Review

Students will answer lesson review questions in teams. They will toss a beanbag to determine how many points they earn for the team.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out one Memory Verse Review Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Put the puzzle pieces into envelopes or small plastic bags.
- Save these puzzles to use through Lesson 5.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Puzzles in envelopes of small plastic bags



JESUS'S MISSION CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus's Mission Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus's Mission Class Notes for each student
- Jesus's Mission Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Quarter 1, Lessons 5 and 12 Lesson Theme Posters



JESUS'S MISSION BEANBAG REVIEW

- Print Jesus's Mission Beanbag Review Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Make a 2' or larger square with masking tape on the floor. Divide the inside of the square into sections. An X will make 4 sections. Assign each section a number value.

- Jesus's Mission Beanbag Review Questions
- One beanbag for each team
- Masking tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces used during the Come On In Activity
- Masking tape



Memory Verse

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

When we think of Jesus Christ and His short ministry on earth, we often think of the miracles—feeding multitudes (Matthew 14:13–21); healing the crippled, blind, and sick (Mark 2:1–12; John 9:1–7; Mark 5); and befriending sinners (Luke 19:1–8; John 4:1–26). Jesus was a man on a mission. But His mission was not merely to rid the world of hunger, pain, sickness, or sadness.

Jesus's primary reason for coming to earth was to glorify His Father. Even as a boy, Jesus spoke of this to Mary and Joseph in the Temple when He said, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). And when the hour for His death had come, He prayed that the Father would glorify Him so that He could glorify the Father (John 17:1). Another prayer demonstrated that same purpose. When He considered His approaching death, Jesus prayed, "Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name" (John 12:27–28).

Though Jesus was God from the beginning and never ceased to be God, He willingly set aside His own glory to make Himself a humble servant: ". . . taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men . . . He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7–8). Jesus glorified the Father by finishing the work that the Father had given Him to do—even unto death (John 17:4).

The Father's will for Jesus included more than His death on the Cross. God's plan for Jesus's life, death, and Resurrection was about saving the lost. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). We read that Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13). The Apostle Paul understood this and stated it plainly in his letter to Timothy: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). He came to save sinners, and the salvation He offered would bring eternal life (John 5:24, 3:15, 10:28).

How does one receive the salvation and eternal life Jesus purchased by His death on the Cross? Being born again is a work of the Spirit, not the flesh (John 3), so we must be careful about trivializing salvation

as a raised hand, a walk down the church aisle, or a repeated prayer. But receiving the gift of salvation does involve the following things. You must come to Him. Believe that He is. Acknowledge your sinfulness before God. Humbly repent of your sins, which means to turn from them and forsake them. Accept the truth that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who 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" (John 3:16–18).

Jesus continues to call, seek, and save those who humbly place their faith in Him (Matthew 11:28–29).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

What do we mean when we speak about Jesus glorifying God? To glorify God means to extol Him, agree with what He says about Himself, worship Him in the splendor of holiness, and submit to Him in humble obedience (1 Chronicles 16; John 17:4). God Himself described His glory: "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). God's glory is manifested through His marvelous attributes. And God, in His grace, chose to display these attributes to mankind through the amazing work of His Son in salvation. Everything Jesus is, everything He did on earth, was God's glory on display.

We see God's compassion in Jesus, who healed those who were sick; we see God's omnipotence in Jesus, who rebuked the wind and calmed the sea; we see God's mercy and grace in Jesus, who forgave repentant sinners; we see God's omniscience in Jesus, who knew the thoughts of those around Him; we see God's holiness in Jesus, who lived a perfect life without sin; and, finally, we see God's justice and love in Jesus, who died on the Cross, taking the wrath of God against sin and providing forgiveness and eternal life for all who trust in Him.

God created us for His own glory (Isaiah 43:6–7), our good works are so others will give God glory (Matthew 5:16), everything we do is to be done for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), and God's plan is to fill

the earth with the knowledge of His glory (Habakkuk 2:14). So God is all about His own glory!

If we were to seek our own glory, we would be called proud or arrogant. So what does it mean that God seeks His own glory? Doesn't that make Him a narcissist? This is a frequently misunderstood subject, chiefly because we forget the difference between the infinite, eternal, holy God, and ourselves, who are finite and fallen.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer given is: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." Indeed, our failure or refusal to worship and honor God would be idolatry. So if mankind's highest good and greatest aim in life is the glory of God, how can God have any other aim? If idolatry is worshipping anyone or anything as god, instead of the true God, then for God to seek any other end than His own glory would amount to idolatry on God's part. Since He is the eternal, infinite Creator, He deserves all glory, so for Him to seek His own glory is not selfishness, but entirely proper.

As J.I. Packer wrote:

If it is right for man to have the glory of God as his goal, can it be wrong for God to have the same goal? If man can have no higher purpose than God's glory, how can God? If it is wrong for man to seek a lesser end than this, it would be wrong for God, too. The reason it cannot be right for man to live for himself, as if He were God, is because He is not God. However, it cannot be wrong for God to seek His own glory, simply because He is God. Those who insist that God should not seek His glory in all things are really asking that He cease to be God. And there is no greater blasphemy than to will that. (J.I. Packer, *God's Plans for You*, Crossway, 2001, p. 29.)

God is glorious, and He wants His fame—His glory—to be seen and enjoyed by His creatures. Jesus's goal was to glorify His Father, and that must be our goal too. But what does it mean to glorify God, and how do we do that in our normal, day-to-day lives?

One way we glorify God is to extol His attributes—such as His holiness, faithfulness, omniscience, omnipotence, mercy, grace, sovereignty, and

love—proclaiming them to others as we tell them about the amazing salvation He alone offers. David wrote in Psalm 22:

I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! (Psalm 22:22–23)

Jesus said that He came to do the will of the Father. He glorified God by His obedience to His Father. So another way we glorify God is by living a life that pleases Him. That means we don't lie, we don't steal, we obey and respect governing authorities, we love others like Jesus did, etc. To obey God is to glorify Him. But it is not just external acts; rather, obedience should come from our hearts. Without a vibrant relationship with Jesus, we cannot glorify God. The key to glorifying God is to be living in fellowship with Him—to be abiding in Christ (John 15). Is His life in you? Are you living in fellowship with Him who loved you and gave Himself up for you (Galatians 2:20)? Are you being conformed to the image of the one who created you (Colossians 3:10)? Are you abiding in Him and bearing fruit to the glory of God—and thereby proving to be His disciple (John 15:8)?



BEFORE THE THRONE

Savior, my Redeemer, I bless your name. Your complete and total submission to the Father is amazing to me. Knowing that you loved your broken and fallen creation enough to suffer and die so that we would have a way to live eternally with you is incredibly humbling. In response to such love, I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. Too often I fail miserably. I must make my time with you a priority, so that your Spirit living through me becomes more natural. Help me to spend more time with you in your Word—studying it, memorizing it, talking about it—and praying. I want to be more like you. Help me to encourage my students to do the same.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Puzzle. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus's Mission Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Jesus's Mission Class Notes for each student
- Jesus's Mission Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We will do it together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will discover what Jesus's mission was when He was on earth.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Jesus's ministry had begun. He lived a perfect life.

? Did Jesus ever sin? *No!*

That's right! And because of that, He alone can offer the forgiveness we need from God. Because He was without sin, He could take the punishment for all sinners who would turn to Him in repentance and faith.

► The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

? **What does repentance mean? When I say we need to repent, what am I talking about?** *Allow discussion. Being sorry for our sin. Turning away from our sins, turning to Jesus, and believing in Him.*

We are all born in sin. Repenting means we are sorry for sinning. When we repent, we want to turn away from our sin, and we want to turn to Jesus. Jesus will give us new life—now and forever. That’s why He came—to offer this amazing gift to those who will believe!

Today we will talk more about what Jesus did during His life and His ministry.

? **What’s the first thing you think of when I say, “Jesus’s life on earth”?** *Allow discussion.*

Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 5 Lesson Theme Poster. You may think of His birth—Christmas—or the many miracles He performed, like healing the sick or calming the stormy sea. You may think of His crucifixion on the Cross, His Resurrection when He was raised from the dead, and His ascension back into heaven to be with His Father where He is today!

? *Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster.* **As Jesus began His work, He started to call His followers.**

? **Jesus called some men to follow Him. We talked about Simon Peter, the fisherman, his brother, Andrew, and the tax collector Matthew. What did they do when Jesus called them?** *Allow discussion.*

They left their jobs, families, and friends to follow Him. And their lives were changed forever! Everything Jesus did was very important. He came to save sinners. The Bible talks about that, and we are going to see what that means.

John 17:1

I’m going to read John 17:1. Listen carefully. We are going to answer some questions about this. *Read John 17:1 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

? **Who was praying in this verse?** *John 17:1. Jesus.*

? **Who was Jesus praying to?** *John 17:1. His Father.*

? **Who is Jesus’s Father?** *God.*

That’s right. Jesus was praying to God, His Father.

? **Jesus said, “The hour has come.” What did Jesus mean by that?** *Allow discussion.*

The “hour” Jesus was talking about was the time for Him to die. He knew He would soon be crucified on the Cross.

? **What did Jesus ask God to do?** *Re-read John 17:1. Glorify Your Son.*

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. God did glorify Jesus through His death. Through Jesus's death many people would come to salvation, their sins would be forgiven, and they would have eternal life with God in heaven. They would love Jesus, worship Him, and turn to Him. This was always God's plan for Jesus. And God, too, was glorified by what Jesus did for sinners.

- ? Can someone read #1 on the class notes for us? What is the answer to that? Who was glorified by Jesus's life and death? Use the word bank and see if you can figure it out. *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #1.*

Good. Jesus came to glorify God through His life and His death. Jesus brings eternal life to all who believe in Him. Eternal life includes heaven forever with Jesus!

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. I want to read John 17:3 to you. This explains what eternal life is. In fact, this is our memory verse. Look here at the Memory Verse Poster as I read the verse. *Read John 17:3.*

- ? Let's read the verse together now. *Read John 17:3 together with the class.*
- ? What is this verse describing? What is this verse talking about? *John 17:3. Eternal life.*

Yes. The verse starts with the words, "This is eternal life," and then Jesus explained here what eternal life is.

- ? Who must we know to have eternal life. *Refer to the Memory Verse Poster and re-read John 17:3. We must know the only true God and Jesus Christ.*

- ? Who sent Jesus Christ to earth? *Re-read John 17:3. God the Father.*

Yes. God the Father sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to earth so that sinners could have eternal life through Him.

- ? Let's go back to the class notes. Who can read #2? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Life. Have students complete #2.*

- ? And will someone read #3 for us? What word goes in the blank? *Assign a reader. Only. Have students complete #3.*

- ? And #4. Can someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Know. Have students complete #4.*

- ? And what did we say were two reasons Jesus came to earth? Look at #1 and #2 on your class notes. *So God would be glorified and to bring eternal life.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus came to earth so God would be glorified. He glorified God through His life, death, and Resurrection from the dead. Jesus also came to earth to bring eternal life to all who believe in the only true God and in Jesus Christ who was sent by God.



John 17:3

- Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

John 3:16

READ THE WORD

Eternal life is knowing God the Father and Jesus. It is life after death spent forever with Jesus in heaven. It is something that Jesus offers to all sinners. The Bible tells us more about eternal life. Listen carefully as I read John 3:16. *Read John 3:16 enthusiastically.*

► As you read this verse stop to explain that “everlasting” life is the same as “eternal” life, and re-read the verses as necessary so students can answer from the text.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? How did that verse start? What did God love? *John 3:16. The world.*
That’s right. God created the world. He loves the world. But man sinned, right? And that sin separated man from God. This verse explains what God did so that man could once again be with Him forever.
- ? Who did God send into the world He loved? *John 3:16. His Son.*
- ? And who is God’s Son? *Jesus.*
- ? What does God give to those who believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son? *John 3:16. Everlasting life.*
- ? Everlasting life is the same as eternal life. What is everlasting or eternal life? *Allow discussion. Life with Jesus in heaven forever after we die.*
- ? Let’s review that important verse using the class notes. Will someone read #5 for us? Can you give the answer? *Assign a reader. World. Have students complete #5.*
- ? And what about #6? Who will read that for us? How would you answer it? *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #6.*

Yes! Remember, one reason Jesus came was to give eternal life to sinners. And He promises that everyone who comes to Him, believes in Him, trusts in Him, and repents of his sins will have everlasting, or eternal, life.

John 3:18

- ? But what about those people who do not believe in Jesus or do not turn away from their sins and trust in Him? The Bible tells us. Listen carefully; this is very important. *Read John 3:18.*
- ? Did you hear it? What will happen to those who do NOT believe in the name of the only Son of God? *They will be condemned.*
- ? What does condemned mean? *Allow discussion.*
Sinners whom God condemns will have to face God’s punishment. They will be guilty of all their sins against God. And when they die they will spend forever separated from God in hell—because they did not believe in the name of the only Son of God.
- ? And who is the only Son of God? Who did God send into the world to offer eternal life? *Jesus.*
- ? Now will someone read #7 from the class notes for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Not. Have students complete #7.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus is the only way sinners can get to God. Jesus came to give eternal life to all who would believe in Him. And those who do not believe in Jesus will face God's punishment. When the Bible tells us that we must know and believe in Jesus, it means more than just knowing ABOUT Him. It means trusting Him and accepting the free gift of forgiveness He offers. It means that you understand that you are a sinner, you are sorry for your sins, and you want to turn away from your sinful life and obey Jesus. It means making Jesus the most important thing in your life—loving Him with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.

- ? Now let's finish up our class notes. Look at #8. Who will read that for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Way. Have students complete #8.*
- ? And what about #9? Who can read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Sins. Have students complete #9.*
- ? And #10. Someone read that, please. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Most. Have students complete #10.*



➤ If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



Jesus's Mission Beanbag Review

MATERIALS

- Jesus's Mission Beanbag Review Questions
- Enough beanbags for each team to have one
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Make a 2' or larger square with masking tape on the floor. Divide the inside of the square into sections. An X will make 4 sections. Assign each section a number value.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Give each team a beanbag. Students will toss a beanbag then get a question to answer. If they answer correctly, they will be awarded the number of points according to where the beanbag landed. If the team misses the question another team may try. If no one gets the answer, give the answer and repeat the question later in the game. Repeat questions, or add others according to your class and your lesson.

We're going to play a beanbag tossing game while we review what we've studied today.

We'll divide into teams. Teams will take turns tossing a beanbag to see how many points they will get when they answer the question correctly. If you miss a question, we'll let the other team try to answer it. Okay! Let's play! *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God had a plan before the creation of the world. He sent Jesus to earth on a mission. That mission was to live a perfect life without sin so He could die for sinners. Jesus took the punishment that others deserved. He died a painful death on the Cross, and God was glorified. Now all who repent of their sin and place their trust in Jesus will not be condemned, but will have eternal life with God because of what Jesus did.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.

MATERIALS

- One set of the nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces used in the Come On In Activity
- Memory Verse Poster
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces onto nine students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have fewer than nine students, tape more than one piece, in the proper order, on some students. If you have more than nine students, repeat if time allows.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times.

Cover the poster before starting the game.

Now I am going to tape these nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. *Tape the nine puzzle pieces onto the students' backs.*

Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our verse reminds us that eternal life comes only through knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ who was sent to earth by His Father.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This lesson is called Jesus's Mission. His mission means His job, His purpose, or the work He came to do. We talked about two reasons Jesus came to earth.

- ? What was one reason Jesus came to earth? Let's read #1 on your class notes for a hint. *Assign a reader. To glorify God.*

That's right. Jesus came to glorify God. He glorified God by living a life of perfect obedience. Jesus did everything the Father asked Him to do; He finished the work God had given Him.

- ? What was the other reason Jesus came to earth? Someone read #2 on your class notes again. *Assign a reader. To bring eternal life to sinners.*

Yes. That was the work God the Father had given Jesus to do. He offered salvation from sin and eternal life to sinners. Jesus did that through His life, His death, and His Resurrection when He rose from the grave.

Jesus came to die for sinners so they would not be condemned but would have eternal life. Jesus came to die for sins He did not commit. And because He was obedient to the Father, even unto death, those who believe in Him will get to spend eternity with Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

There is only one God. He sent His only Son—Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

? *Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. Do you remember when Jesus called His disciples? What did they do? How did they react? Did they say, "Wait a minute!" No! They dropped everything and followed Him right away!*

That's right! And their lives were changed forever. Jesus promises to change your life, to forgive your sins, and to give you eternal life, joy, and hope. Knowing Jesus is not just knowing ABOUT Him, but learning who He is, what He did, and why He did it. It's loving Him with a thankful heart for taking the punishment for sin and offering forgiveness and eternal life in exchange.

Eternal life is knowing the one true God and knowing Jesus Christ, whom God sent. Knowing Him will change your life. You will never be the same. But we can only know Him that well by learning about Him from God's Word—the Bible. I pray you will continue to learn about Him all your life and come to know Him as your Lord and Savior.

Let's say our memory verse together. It's John 17:3. *Recite the verse together from the Memory Verse Poster.*



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His love. He loved the world so much that He planned Jesus's mission even before time began.
- Thank God that Jesus made a way for people who were lost and separated from God to be forgiven, so they could live eternally with Him.
- Ask God to help us to continue to grow and learn about Him all our life so we can complete the mission He has given us—to share His love and message of salvation with others.

