

Jesus Claims to Be God's Son

John 10:22-42

September
Week 3

3



Teacher Background

What Happens: People ask Jesus to tell them plainly if he's the Messiah. Jesus says he already has told them who he is: Jesus is God's Son. He says they don't believe him because they're not his sheep. The people try to throw stones at Jesus but he stops them, once again saying that he's God's Son.

Why It Matters: The people in this passage wanted to know who Jesus is, but they'd missed the truth right in front of them! Help kids see the truth of who Jesus is: Jesus is God's Son.

Think About: What evidence have you seen of who Jesus is? Is it enough for you to believe?

Pray for kids to understand and believe who Jesus is.



Point

Jesus is God's Son.



Key Verse

"We love each other because he loved us first."

1 John 4:19

QUICK TIP

Kids learn best in multisensory environments. Two or More uses a variety of approaches—such as games, craft projects, group discussions, singing, and object lessons—to help all kids learn better and give them each the opportunity to excel.



This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Spot signs of what's true and explore what shows us Jesus is God's Son.	Jesus' miraculous actions show us he is God's Son.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Make and decorate journals.	They can watch for Jesus doing things in their everyday lives.
PLAY A GAME Play a guessing game to find an easily overlooked clue.	Paying attention to Jesus helps us see him at work.
PRAY TOGETHER Prove gravity and thank Jesus for his power.	That not being able to see something doesn't mean it isn't real.

EASY SUPPLIES

- o Bibles
- o index cards (1 per child)
- o cups (1 per child)
- o paper clips (1 per child)
- o pencils (1 per child)
- o pitcher of water
- o plain white paper
- o stapler
- o stamps
- o washable ink pads
- o wet wipes
- o markers
- o pens or pencils



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids pat the people next to them on the back.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids say “feliz cumpleaños” (“happy birthday” in Spanish).

ASK: What’s something you did last week that you’re proud of? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we’ll learn that ➡ **Jesus is God’s Son**. Sometimes we’re a lot like our parents!

ASK: Tell about one way you want to be like your mom or dad or another important grown-up in your life. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Jesus is a lot like his father—God! Today we’ll hear from the Bible about some people who wanted to know who Jesus really was.

The Bible is an amazing book God gave us! It’s full of incredible, true stories! Let’s dig into a Bible story now!



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- index cards (1 per child)
- cups (1 per child)
- paper clips (1 per child)
- pencils (1 per child)
- pitcher of water

EXPLORE WHAT EVIDENCE IS

SAY: Today we’re going to explore that ➡ **Jesus is God’s Son**. We’ll see what he said and did to show he really is who he says he is.



Open the Bible to John 10, and show kids the words.

SAY: In the Bible, Jesus gave evidence of—or showed us—who he is. He did a lot of miracles and said many times that he is God. But then people came and asked him a question.



Read John 10:24.

SAY: Of course Jesus is the Messiah, sent from God! But since the people in the Bible were confused about who Jesus was, let’s see what he said.

LISTEN



Read John 10:25-30.

SAY: Jesus said that his actions were the evidence that ➡ **he is God’s Son**. And people who believe him are like sheep that know their shepherd’s voice.

When we listen to Jesus, we’ll hear what God is saying to us! That’s because ➡ **Jesus is God’s Son**. Let’s play a game to recognize voices.

- Explain that you'll be the Shepherd and everyone else will be sheep.
- Then have Sheep gather in the middle of the room, close their eyes, and spin around.
- Sheep will crawl, trying to follow you by listening to your voice.
- You'll quietly move along the sides of the room and say the kids' names over and over again—calling to them from different areas of the room.
- Play for a couple of minutes, then gather everyone back together.

ASK: What helped you listen to your Shepherd's voice?

ASK: What does it mean to listen to Jesus' voice?

SAY: Because ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**, we can listen to him and it's the same as listening to God. That's because Jesus said he and his Father God are one.

IDENTIFY THE REAL THING

SAY: When Jesus talked about being God's Son and being one with the Father, that made people really mad—so mad that they wanted to kill him! That's because it wasn't right for people to say they were God. That's something called blasphemy...unless it's true!

Since ➡ **Jesus really is God's Son**, what he said wasn't blasphemy! So Jesus talked some more about how they could know he was who he said he was.



Read John 10:37-38.

Have kids form mixed-age pairs. Give each pair an index card, a cup, a paper clip, and a pencil.

SAY: You each have a cup, a paper clip, and a pencil. But you're going to pretend they're each one of the other items. For example, you might pretend that your paper clip is a cup, your cup is a pencil, and your pencil is a paper clip. Allow time for kids to decide what will be what. Pairs don't all have to agree on what's what, but within a pair both partners should agree.

SAY: OK, let's see how strongly you really believe in what's what. Take your pencil and scribble on your index card. Allow time for kids to try to scribble with whatever they are calling a pencil.

SAY: Now fold your index card in half, and clip the ends together with your paper clip. Allow time.

SAY: Now come up for a drink of water. I'll pour it in your cup! Kids may choose not to try to use their "cup" for water! That's OK. If any do, have them hold their "cup" over a trash can while you pour just a little water on it.

ASK: After using your items, how strongly do you believe that they are what you called them?

ASK: How do you know that a pencil is a pencil, or a cup is a cup?

SAY: You could call anything a cup. But if you can't pour water in it and drink out of it, it's not really a cup!

Jesus said that if he was just saying he was God's Son, the people shouldn't believe him. But if they could see he had God's power, they could know for sure that ➡ **Jesus is God's Son!** We can trust Jesus too.





SUPPLIES

- plain white paper
- stapler
- stamps
- washable ink pads
- wet wipes
- markers
- pens or pencils

EASY PREP

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

MAKE JOURNALS

SAY: We're learning that ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**. Jesus himself said it! That means Jesus shows us who God is. When we look at how Jesus lived while he was on earth, we can see who God is.

We're going to make a stamped journal to remind us of that.

- Give each child five pieces of paper.
- Have kids each fold the papers in half together to make a journal and then staple over the fold to bind it. Older kids can help younger kids as needed.
- Set out ink pads.

SAY: Pick one stamp you like most and use it to decorate the front of your journal. You'll notice that all the stamp prints come out exactly the same. That can remind us that Jesus is like a stamp of God.

When you stamp on your journal, the print shows you what shape is on your stamper. In the same way, Jesus shows us who God is, because

➡ **Jesus is God's Son**. Jesus is like God's stamp on our world!

- Allow time for kids to decorate the covers of their journals. In addition to their stamps, they can also use markers.
- After they finish stamping, let kids clean their hands with wet wipes.

WRITE IN THE JOURNALS

SAY: Jesus said we have proof that ➡ **he is God's Son**. The proof is the work he does! Jesus did a lot of amazing things for people when he lived on earth. But he still does amazing things for us today!

You can use your journal to record God Sightings—glimpses of those amazing things Jesus is doing in your life. When you see everything Jesus does for you, you can remember that ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**, God's stamp on our world.

Let's start by writing or drawing one God Sighting. Write or draw one thing you've seen God do this week. Share your own example to give kids an idea of what a God Sighting is. It can be as simple as nice weather, a hug from a family member, or another blessing you're thankful for.

As younger kids draw, helpers or older kids can ask about their drawings and write captions.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What God Sighting did you write or draw about?

ASK: How does seeing Jesus at work prove that ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**?

SAY: ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**. When we look at everything Jesus did, we can see just what God is like!





PLAY A GUESSING GAME

SAY: Looking for the things Jesus is doing around us means we need to focus on him—pay attention to him. Let’s practice paying attention in a fun way—with a game!

You’ll have to figure out how to play as we go. I’m going to drop these pencils, and when I do, pay attention! The way they land will mean a number from 0 to 5. You’ll need to tell me what number it is each time.

- Drop the pencils, and then discreetly set your right hand on your knee with any number of fingers held up.
- The number of fingers you’re holding up is the actual secret to the game, but most kids will be focused on the pencils.
- Let kids guess the number, and tell kids who get it right that they have the right number.
- Keep playing as more and more kids figure out the secret to the game. By the end, you may want to make your hand motions very dramatic to draw more attention to the secret.
- Play until everyone has figured out the secret, or as long as time allows.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: Where was your attention focused at the beginning of our game?

ASK: What helped you finally put your attention in the right place?

ASK: How is this like people not recognizing Jesus as God’s Son?

SAY: In our game, you were so focused on the pencils that you missed the answer right in front of you—I was telling you the number!

In the Bible, people were so focused on looking for the Messiah that they missed the answer from Jesus: ➡ **Jesus is God’s Son, the Messiah.** When we pay attention to Jesus, we’ll see all kinds of things he shows us about who God is.

SUPPLIES

- pencils

QUICK TIP

If you have very young kids, partner them with an older friend for this game and let them work together to try to figure out the clue to the game.





SUPPLIES

- cotton balls (1 per child)



TEST IT

SAY: We can't see Jesus, and we can't see that ➡ **he's God's Son**. But he shows us proof by working in our lives today.

Let's think about how we prove things we can't see are real—like gravity or air.

Give kids each a cotton ball, and have kids drop them.

ASK: How did that prove gravity is real?

Have kids blow their cotton balls around on the floor.

ASK: How do you know there was air coming out of your mouth?

SAY: You can't see gravity or air, but when you see things fall or blow in the wind, that's proof that there's gravity or air at work. In the same way, Jesus' work in our lives proves to us that ➡ **Jesus is God's Son**.

THANK

SAY: Let's thank Jesus for the ways he's worked in our lives to prove he's God's Son and has God's power. We'll take turns praying. You can pray silently or say something out loud.

- Start the prayer by thanking Jesus for something he's done in your life.
- Then allow plenty of time for kids to add to the prayer. Remember, it may take time for kids to think of something and to get the courage to share it, so allow long pauses even if it feels awkward.
- When enough time has passed for everyone to pray, close the prayer.