

Jesus' Preparation for Ministry

Lesson 5a — Jesus in the Temple

Lesson 5b — The Baptism of Jesus

Lesson 5c — The Temptation of Jesus

Lesson 5d — Jesus Chooses His Disciples

OVERVIEW

The second unit of this series is a chronological approach to the events of Jesus' life from His boyhood days to the start of His public ministry and the calling of His disciples.

The boyhood of Jesus should be approached from the standpoint that His deity did not render the process of learning unnecessary. Christ grew physically and advanced in knowledge and in the wisdom which enabled Him to make proper use of what He knew.

At His baptism, Jesus received divine confirmation of the mission opening out before Him and also the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of it.

Following His example of water baptism, Jesus provided for His followers an example of resisting tempta-

tion. Resisting the effort of Satan to cause Him to rely upon special consideration as the Son of God, He withstood the evil one by using the weapon available to every believer — the Holy Scriptures.

When equipped by baptism and seasoned by the ordeal of temptation, Jesus was ready for His life's work. No word of teaching and no work of power is attributed to Him prior to these events, but immediately afterward He began moving to undertake the work the Father had given Him to do.

The overall theme of these four lessons is that Jesus set an example by preparing Himself for the work that He was called to do. Just so, there is something each one of us must do in preparation for the call God has placed upon our lives.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Divide a large cardboard into three horizontal rows by attaching strips of paper to form pockets. Write questions on index cards assigning points for each, going from easy to difficult. Place a card in each pocket (see Patterns). Divide class into two teams. Each student should get a chance to pick a card, alternating teams. If one team can't answer, the other team gets a chance. Keep score. The team with the most points wins. Have a small prize with each card — candy, bookmark, balloon, etc. The students who answer the questions get the prizes.

CONTEST IDEAS

Who can memorize the Apostles' names by the last Sunday of the month? Put their names on a special board on a paper fish (see Patterns).

Give the children a chance to prepare for ministry just

as Jesus did. Have them memorize some verses that are simple enough to learn, and that will hopefully have a lasting impact on their lives.

BULLETIN BOARDS

(See Patterns for all of the following ideas.)

Arrange on your board a silhouette of a boy or girl praying, a Bible, dove, and two children talking together (witnessing). Above them put large cut-out words or stencil of FOLLOWING JESUS.

Use picture of an open Bible with large cut-out letters, LORD, TEACH US, above the Bible. These could be cut from construction paper of various colors to appear as stained glass or mosaic. This pattern could also be run off as an in-class activity.

Arrange two fishermen on a board with a net between. Make enough fish for each child to have one for each

Sunday. Make a different color for each Sunday and print a different promise on each one. Start with enough purple fish in the net for everyone in the class. These are for perfect attendance. Each child could place a fish with his name on it in the net each Sunday he is in Sunday school. Those having all four at the end of the month would be given a purple fish with a perfect attendance sticker on it, along with their other fish to take home.

UNIT PROJECTS

Collect four styrofoam sandwich boxes. On the lid of each, write the Scripture reference for one of this month's memory verses. For each verse cut out one shape from construction paper for each word to represent an ingredient for a hamburger or Dagwood sandwich. For example, make a square of white for bread, cut a leafy piece of green for lettuce, circle of red for a tomato, square of yellow for cheese, square or round of brown for meat, ovals of green for pickles, uneven circle of cream for mayonnaise, etc. Write one word on each shape and put them all together in the sandwich box in any order. Students will select a box and put together a "sandwich" in the proper order.

CHART IDEAS

Make a wheel chart with a picture of Jesus on the top wheel and a notch cut out. On the bottom wheel, mark off four sections for each of the lessons of this unit. The four sections should show Jesus in the Temple, His baptism, His temptation, Jesus with His disciples (see Patterns). Have your children color the appropriate section each week.

For each of your students, mount the oval of Jesus with the words "Jesus Prepared — So Must I" in the center of a large piece of paper (see Patterns). On each of the four Sundays of this unit, give the students a piece of paper with one corner cut out to fit around the oval. Let

them draw a picture of something they can do to prepare themselves to be used of God, as suggested by that week's lesson. For example, week one might be going to church. Week two could be receiving water baptism. Week three could be resisting the devil — perhaps using a Bible as illustration. Week four could be choosing friends who will help us spiritually. If the child does not wish to draw, help him letter in appropriate words.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

- "The Small Town Boy Who Made Good" — Filmstrip with cassette. Tells of Jesus' boyhood, and preparation for ministry, Concordia
- "When Jesus Was Young" — Tell Me a Story cassette. Jesus' life from infancy to baptism, Augsburg Publishing
- "Getting to Know Jesus" — Children's church programs by Angela Carl and June Lang. Activities, crafts and games with emphasis on Bible memorization, correlated music, Standard Publishing
- "Jesus and His Friends" — Flip-a-Bible-Story book by Ruth Odor, Standard Publishing
- "Jesus Begins His Work" — Ella K. Lindvall, People of the Bible Series book, Moody Press
- "Jesus' Birth, Childhood, and Early Ministry" — Richard and Frances Hook's "Bible Teaching Pictures," David C. Cook Publishing Company
- "Jesus Is No Secret" — Carolyn Nystrom, Children's Bible Basic book, Moody Press
- "Who Is Jesus?" — Carolyn Nystrom, Children's Bible Basic book, Moody Press
- "Jesus, Our Good Shepherd" — Attendance cards and seals, Standard Publishing
- "The Life of Christ" — Bible overhead Teach-parencies for use on overhead projectors. Includes lessons on birth, baptism and early ministry. Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

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