



S1.Lesson 2: Identity of Jesus

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Note cards (smaller is better); writing utensils (1 per student); masking or scotch tape; tv or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html);

Opening Prayer

EXPLAIN Opening Activity: Who Am I?

- I am passing out to each of you a blank notecard/half-sheet of paper in front of you.
- I want you to think of a famous person, someone who is really famous, whether now or in the past (like a living or dead US president or Albert Einstein or something).
- Then write that name down, but make sure you don't tell anyone and that no one sees whose name you've written down.
- Now take a piece of tape and tape your piece of paper to your neighbor on your right.
- Once everyone's taped up, we have to guess the name of who is on our back.
- We do this by asking each other yes/no questions.
- So you go up to someone, you each look at each other's back and then you each ask each other ONE yes/no question.
- What this means is that you can only ask a question that can be answered with a yes or a no. When you answer, you may only say "Yes" or "No" or "That's not a yes/no question."
- Once you've both asked and answered your one question, then you have to go talk to/ask someone else.
- Any questions?

NOTE: Students might have trouble asking questions that help to eliminate possibilities: If this turns out to be the case, encourage them to find out if their person is alive or dead, if their person is a man or a woman, American or foreign, a movie star, a politician, a singer, etc.

DO Who Am I Activity

TELL Review from last week (Optional)

Class starts after a Time with Children ends in Worship.

- It'll take a few minutes to get here, mostly because of the other children, but we expect you to come straight here.
- No bathroom breaks, no going downstairs and then back up here.
- You come straight here.
- And then, unless you are told otherwise, have a seat.

Learning

- In the Workshop Rotation Model the focus is on learning the Bible stories (the Who, what, where, when parts of the stories).
- In the 6-8th grade class, we'll revisit a number of those stories, but our focus will be more on the "why" and on us than on the who, what, when, where of the story. For example: "Why do the characters do what they do in the stories. Do we do similar things? Why?"
- This type of learning is dependent upon all of us to provide our thoughts and it is dependent on all of us to listen to what others are saying.

Communication

- The most important thing that will determine how well this class works is how we choose to communicate with each other.
- If all of us talk at the same time, the class will not go well.
- If one person, like me, is talking to the class, but two of you are whispering to each other, then that is disruptive to the class.
- If one person shares something and someone else makes fun of that person, then that is disruptive to the class.
- Such disruptive aspects of communication are not acceptable. We will have activities in class, like what we just did, as a way to move around, but we will also have conversations. You are expected to participate in both the activities and the conversations in ways that are considerate and respectful of those around you.
- **Question Box** (optional)– Sometimes during a discussion we're having, you might have a question that comes up for you that's not really in-line with what we're talking about. We'd like to answer your question, but we can't just stop class every time to answer a question that is off-topic. So, we will have a question box. The Question Box works like this: Let's say you ask a question that you've been wondering about for awhile that's not on-topic, but was triggered by the conversation. In response to your question, I/we'll say, "That's a great question, but that's not really where we're at today, so go ahead and write it down and put it in the question box." If you do, then when we do get to that topic, on that Sunday in class, we'll introduce the topic with your question.

Schedule/Worship/Notebooks

- About once a month, we will not meet in class, but will attend the worship service.
- The schedule is in your notebook.
- The notebooks will stay in class. But they will provide you a place to keep information that you gather during the year, in forms of handouts and for a place for you to write down ideas/questions and will be stored over here.

TELL

- OK, we just finished an activity where we got to guess who we were.
- We did this by asking other people in the class questions to help us know who we were.
- In the scripture we're going to read next, see if you notice anything similar happening.

READ *The MESSAGE. MT16:13-20*

13 When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man (Son of Man is how Jesus often referred to himself) is?" **14** The disciples replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." **15** Jesus pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?" **16** Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **17** Jesus answered back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. **18** And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out. **19** "And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven." **20** Jesus then made the disciples promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

ASK

- In verse 18, Jesus tells Peter who Peter is. Do you think Peter believes Jesus?
- Who do you hear other people (your parents, people in church, kids at school) say Jesus is?
- Who do *you* think Jesus is? Why?
- In verse 20, it almost sounds like Jesus has a secret identity, doesn't it?
- Can you think of people or stories, like movies, that you can think of where people have secret identities (Superman, Spiderman, Catwoman, Batman, spies, undercover cops)?
- Why do they have secret identities? (Keeps them safe. Let's them see things they normally wouldn't be able to see. In the case of superheroes, it keeps others from interfering with them).
- Of these reasons that you just named, what reason do you think best fits why Jesus is keeping his identity secret at the time?

TELL

- Now we're going to watch a movie clip of someone who has a secret identity.
- Watch for what they do with that secret identity and the reaction others have toward that person.
- The clip is from the movie, "Ironman." The name of the two characters you first see are
- "Tony Stark" and "Ms. Potts."
- If you've seen this movie before, do not say what is going to happen.

WATCH clip from Iron Man

TELL

At the beginning of this clip, Tony and Ms. Potts referenced a scene that happened earlier in the movie, where Tony's secret identity caused Tony to leave Ms Potts. But Ms. Potts at that time did not know that Tony was Iron Man.

ASK

- What happened when Tony says, “The truth is...I am Ironman.”? (Everybody goes crazy.)
- Do you think this will make it easier or harder for Tony to be Ironman and do Ironman things? Why?

If there's time, more questions to ask:

- What makes a superhero a superhero?
- What are the requirements?
- If you could be a superhero and you could choose your superhero powers, what would they be?
- Why?
- Do you think of Jesus as a superhero? Why or why not? (Does he fit the requirements?)
- Are any of the superhero powers that you chose for your superhero self similar to the powers that Jesus has? (for example: ability to feed many people, ability to heal, ability to walk on water, ability to read thoughts, ability to always know what to say, ability to calm storms, ability to overcome death, ability to tell cool little stories to illustrate a point, ability to cast out unclean spirits)
- Jesus says in John 14:12-13 *The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things*, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. **13** From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. (from the Message).
- So if you *do* think of Jesus as a superhero, he's saying you will do even greater superhero things if you trust him and do what he does. What do you think about that? Do you believe it? Do you feel inspired, maybe, by such a promise? Why/Why not?

If there's still time...

- We're going to repeat the opening activity, but this time we're going to write down the name of a superhero and then try to guess who we are.

CLOSING PRAYER