

## DAY 1

# Meet Jesus!

### Discover His Bold Claims

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

John 4:5–26

#### APOLOGETICS CONTENT

No other person can rightly claim to be God.  
Only Jesus.

#### PRECIOUS GOLD MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth,  
and the life.” John 14:6

#### GEM TO TREASURE

Don’t be fooled by counterfeits!

#### LESSON AIM

Children will learn that Jesus is one of a kind.  
He is God. He is also Creator, perfect, and the  
only way to heaven. No other person ever has  
been or ever will be like Jesus.

#### Today’s Discovery Centers

- Craft Creations: Name of Jesus Rubbing
- Touch Table: Woman at the Well
- Dramatic Play: Old West Dress Up
- Exploration Station: He’s a Gem!
- Coloring Corner: John 14:6

#### Today’s Lesson at a Glance

- News That’s New  
Howdy, Partners!
- Discover What’s True  
Part One: Woman at the Well  
Part Two: Puppet Pal—The Way, the Truth, the Life
- Time to Review  
Part One: Precious Gold Memory Verses  
Part Two: Go and Do  
Optional Song: *Jesus at the Well*

#### Preparing for the Lesson

- Read John 4:5–26, John 14:1–6, 1 John 3:5, and John 1:1–5 to prepare for teaching about the bold claims of Jesus.

- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- Pray.

#### Lesson Materials

##### FROM TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster
- Bold Claims poster

##### FROM TEACHER RESOURCE CD-ROM

- 2 copies of today’s puppet script

##### OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible
- Old West costumes for teachers
- Discovery Center supplies (see back cover)
- “Well” supplies (see page 18)
- Boy or girl puppet
- Clipboard
- Map
- Optional: Today’s coin, 1 per child
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 21)



## Today's Devotional: Meet Jesus

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1*

Imagine meeting a man who claimed to be God. What would you think? Crazy nut?

Now imagine this man claimed to be the fulfillment of statements written hundreds of years before. Sure, sure, weirdo.

Now imagine the little boy down the street who had died was running around again. The man who claimed to be God had raised him from the dead. It was no trick—you had seen the boy after he died, and he was now playing with your kids.

Makes you think, doesn't it? Could this man really be who he claimed to be?

This is our Savior.

Even though today, we would (and should) scoff at someone staking a claim to deity, Jesus Christ was the real deal. He was the Creator incarnate, the God-man, the One who came to save His people from their sins, fulfilling the promises God had made since the beginning of time.

As you study your Bible this week, focus your attention on the four gospels. Put aside the genteel storybook notions that cloud the truth about the Messiah. And read the accounts as if for the first time, marveling at the astounding claims Jesus made ("before Abraham was, I AM"); the awesome demonstrations of His power over

nature, sin, and death; the amazing fact that He *rose from the dead*; and the astonishing change in the lives of those He touched.

Of all the people who have ever lived, ever led a religion, ever claimed to be a deity, only Jesus has the credentials to deserve our worship and following. And the only way we can know the truth about Him is through His inspired Word, the Bible.

As you prepare to meet Jesus with your students today, let's meditate on this Puritan Prayer about the Rock of Ages.

Thou Great I AM,  
Fill my mind with elevation and grandeur at the  
thought of a Being  
With whom one day is as a thousand years, and a  
thousand years as one day.  
A mighty God who, amidst the lapse of the worlds,  
and the revolutions of empires,  
Feels no variableness but is glorious in immortality.  
May I rejoice that, while men die, the Lord lives;  
That, while all creatures are broken reeds, empty  
cisterns, fading flowers, withering grass,  
He is the Rock of Ages, the fountain of Living  
Waters.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*  
(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), p. 104.

## Discovery Centers

### Craft Creations: Name of Jesus Rubbing

#### MATERIALS

- Checkered tablecloth and a bandana
- Crayons in a small galvanized bucket
- Sticky-backed fun foam or cardstock letters that spell “Jesus”
- Corrugated cardboard
- Copy paper

#### PRE-PREP

- Cover the table with the checkered tablecloth and put the bandana in the center. This will be used all week. Peel the crayons so they can be used sideways and put them in the bucket on top of the bandana. Attach the five letters of the name “Jesus” to a piece of cardstock or corrugated cardboard so they are in order.

#### DIRECTIONS

- Children put their copy paper over the letters and rub with the crayons to see the impression of the word *Jesus*.

#### TEACHING TIE-IN

We’re all given a name when we’re born. Jesus’s name is special. Jesus’s mommy didn’t pick the name. An angel from God told her what to name Him (Luke 1:31). The name *Jesus* means “The Lord saves,” and that’s why He came to earth.

### Touch Table: Woman at the Well

#### MATERIALS

- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or light blue plastic tablecloth (your “stream”)
- “Well” (bottom half of gallon milk containers, permanent marker and scissors)
- Water
- Small plastic cups or film containers for “water pots”
- Miscellaneous small plastic containers

#### PRE-PREP

- Place a tarp or plastic tablecloth on the ground under the touch table. This will be used all week. For today, prepare one or more “wells” by cutting the milk jugs and drawing stones on them with a permanent marker. Fill each partway with water and place in the touch table.

#### DIRECTIONS

- Children fill their “water pots” at the well and transfer the water to plastic containers. (Monitor water play carefully.)

#### TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we’re learning about the woman at the well who met Jesus for the first time. Can you imagine meeting Jesus (GOD!) for the first time? The woman was amazed because Jesus told her all about her past. Jesus knows everything about every one us, including what you are thinking right now and how many hairs are on your head! No one else can know that. Only Jesus.

### Dramatic Play: Old West Dress Up

#### MATERIALS

Choose from the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Log cabin backdrop (see Decorating Decisions)
- Old West supplies (e.g., small table and chairs, barrels, baskets, lanterns, olden-day play food [eggs, cheese, etc.], stick horses, tin plates, safe cooking utensils and bowls, pretend sacks of flour and sugar, canteen, broom, baby cradle and baby doll, rolled up blankets, plastic play tools, family Bible)
- Costumes (e.g., bandanas, boots, cowboy hats, flannel shirts, bonnets, pioneer dresses, aprons, vests—children’s vests can be made from material or large brown grocery sacks)
- Plastic or tin pitcher and cups

#### PRE-PREP

- Set up the log cabin with the log cabin backdrop, the Old West supplies, and the costumes. Put the costumes in a crate or large basket.

**DIRECTIONS**

- Dress up and pretend to be living in the Old West. Have a pitcher and cups today so they can pretend to pour water.

**TEACHING TIE-IN**

There's a pitcher and some cups in the log cabin today. People got hot and dusty and thirsty on their way out west. It was a long and tiring journey. In our Bible lesson today, we find Jesus hot and dusty and thirsty, too. He was a man, so He felt things like we do. But He was different from us, because He wasn't just a man. He was also GOD! No one else was both God and man. Only Jesus.

NOTE: You may want to put out only part of the dress up area supplies today and add new items each day. Check the Dramatic Play write-ups on the other days for suggestions.

**Exploration Station: He's a Gem!****MATERIALS**

- Balance scale (buy, borrow, or make a simple one)
- "Gold nuggets" (rocks or aquarium gravel spray painted gold)
- "Gems" (found at craft stores or online from Oriental Trading Company)
- Play cash register and play money
- Magnifying glass
- Optional: Small cups, bags, or pouches in which to carry "gold"
- Optional: Bank sign

**PRE-PREP**

- Get the balance scale ready and make the gold nuggets. (You can also buy gold aquarium gravel.) Set the area up with a scale and gems on a desk or table. The gems can be in a brown lunch sack with the sides partially rolled down. Set up the cash register, magnifying glass, pouches of "gold," and play money.

**DIRECTIONS**

- Children enjoy weighing the gold and gems to find the heaviest and trading for play money.

**TEACHING TIE-IN**

When miners bring in gold to be weighed, the gold has to pass the test that it is real gold, not fake gold, called Fool's Gold. Sometimes people can act like fakes, too. They may pretend to be from God, but they are not. Only Jesus is truly God. Only Jesus is perfect. Only Jesus is the Creator! He is worth more than all the gold in the world!

**Coloring Corner: John 14:6****MATERIALS**

- Covered wagon decorating supplies (see "Covered Wagon Coloring Corner" on page 13)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet
- Markers or crayons in a small galvanized bucket

**PRE-PREP**

- Print the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up.

**DIRECTIONS**

- Color the sheet.

**TEACHING TIE-IN**

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

**Additional Discovery Center Ideas**

1. Bring in different sized cereal boxes that have been made to look like western town storefronts. Add play horses and people, and the kids can play Old West town. Or use purchased playsets that have to do with the Old West, such as Lincoln Logs or Playmobile.
2. Set up a Bucket of Books center with children's books about Jesus. Place the books in a galvanized metal tub or bucket. Place the tub on a blanket with some bedrolls or rolled up sleeping bags.
3. Have some Flannelboard Fun, using a flannelboard and characters you've made from each day's Bible lesson.

# Day 1

## Old West costumes for teachers

★ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

★ Think of fun names for yourselves, such as Uncle Jed, Miner Millie, Panner Pete, or Goldie.

★ If working as co-teachers rather than as a lead teacher and an assistant, decide which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching.

★ The Bible is listed just once daily, but may be used throughout the day.

- Bible (or children's picture Bible)
- "Well" supplies (large appliance box, marker, rope, cooler or bowl of water, small bucket, tarp or thick towel)
- Bold Claims poster (Teacher Resource Pack)

### PRE-PREP

1. Make the well by drawing stones on the sides of the appliance box with the marker, placing the bowl or cooler of water down in the well, and attaching the rope (approximately 7 feet) to the small bucket. Note: You may want to place the bowl of water on a tarp or thick towel to catch spills, or just pretend there's water.



★ Four chairs placed in a square with the seats facing out can also serve as a makeshift well.

## News That's New (5 minutes or less)

### Howdy, Partners!

Welcome, y'all! My name is Aunt (Uncle) \_\_\_\_\_ and this here is \_\_\_\_\_ (Teacher Two or Teaching Assistant). We're at this nice cabin, and just over the way is the Discovery Mine site. Are you ready to head out to look for gold? Let's get on our ponies and gallop along. (Pretend to do so.) Ooh, it's gettin' dusty. Let's get out our bandanas to keep the dust from our lungs. (Pretend to do so.) Now let's get off our horses and sit down because we're here, right in the middle of the Gold Rush!

I'm sure glad you miners decided to come, because I'm trusting y'all will find some gold this week. The gold I'm talkin' about isn't the kind from the ground, though. We're gonna be mining for TRUE gold and meeting that one-of-a-kind, extra special ROCK, the Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ. He's worth more than all the silver and gold in the world!

So let's get started and find out what God's true book, the Bible, has to say about the best treasure of all—Jesus.

## Discover What's True (15 minutes)

### Part One: Woman at the Well (10 minutes)

Have your Bible and the Bold Claims poster with you as you share this account. If there are two of you teaching, alternate paragraphs with this account.

Does anyone know what a well is? (Take responses.) It's a deep hole in the ground where water comes from. People used it (some still do!) to get their water, much like we use faucets in our houses. They would let a bucket down and fill it with water, then pull on a rope to get the water. (Demonstrate this, and if time, let them try it.)

The Bible records a time when the star of our VBS, Jesus, came to a well in the town of Samaria. Jesus was very tired because He had been traveling, so He sat down by the well. Let's all pretend we are tired and hot and thirsty. (Do so.)

Along came a woman from Samaria to get some water at the well. Let's get up and pretend we're carrying a bucket to get water at the well. (Do so, then sit down, or have just the teacher do this.)

Jesus was a Jew. Usually, Jews didn't have anything to do with the people from Samaria, especially the women, because they didn't like Samaritans. Let's say, "No! No! No!" (Do so.)

But Jesus wasn't an ordinary person. He loves all people, no matter what they look like or where they live. He loves you, and He loved that Samaritan woman. So as she came to the well, Jesus asked her if she could get Him a drink of water. The woman

was surprised that Jesus talked to her. Girls, pretend you are the woman from Samaria and give me your best look of shocked surprise! (Do so.)

As they talked, she began to realize He was someone special. He was able to tell her all about her life, even though they had never met before. For instance, Jesus told her to go get her husband. She said she didn't have a husband. Jesus told her that was true, and that she had actually had five husbands in her lifetime. Let's count to five together. (Do so.)

The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her past life. Give me a look of total amazement. (Do so.) Still, she didn't completely get who Jesus was. She told Jesus she knew the Messiah (God) was going to come, and when He came, He would tell her all things. Whisper to your neighbor, "The Messiah is coming!" (Do so.)

Jesus told her that He was that Messiah. In other words, He told her He was God! (Point to the Bold Claims poster—Jesus is God!) He wasn't just a person, like everyone else who has ever lived or who will ever live. He was and is GOD! Let's jump up and down and shout, "Jesus is GOD!" three times. (Do so.)

The woman was so excited she left her water pot and ran to tell everyone what Jesus had said to her. Let's run around and act excited. (Do so, then sit down.)

She brought many more people to meet Jesus, and they also believed Jesus was God, the Savior of the world. Let's shout again, "Jesus is GOD!" (Do so.)

This is amazing because no one else who ever lived on earth was GOD. Jesus is one of a kind. Because Jesus is God, He can do things no one else can do. For instance, He made the whole world and all the kinds of animals and plants and people. (Point to the Bold Claims poster—Jesus Is Creator!) No one else can make plants and animals and people out of nothing! Let's act like some animals out West to remind us of some of the animals He made. (Do so. Possible animals are: prairie dogs, bears, coyotes, jackrabbits, rattlesnakes, bison.)

Because He's God, He's also perfect. No one else has ever been perfect. (Point to the Bold Claims poster—Jesus Is Perfect!) That means He never made a mistake, like we do. I want you to stand up if you think kings ever make mistakes. (Do so, then sit back down. Continue in a like manner with the following.) How about presidents? Pastors? Teachers? Parents? Brothers and sisters? You? Everyone makes mistakes—except Jesus. Only Jesus is perfect.

Jesus is God, Jesus is Creator, and Jesus is perfect. Let's go and meet a special friend to learn something else about Jesus.

## Part Two: Puppet Pal—The Way, the Truth, the Life

(5 minutes)

Each day, the puppet pal will reinforce the lesson the kids just heard. It is a quick but important part of the day. If you don't have a teaching assistant, enlist someone (a class leader or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. The puppet should enter from the window of the cabin. If alone, have the puppet enter from an old trunk or a suitcase that has the lid flipped up.

- Boy or girl puppet
- 2 copies of today's puppet script (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Clipboard
- Map
- Daily overview poster (Teacher Resource Pack)
- Optional: Today's coin, 1 per child

### PRE-PREP

1. Tape one script inside the puppet stage, and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.

★ Dress the puppet with Old West clothing (a mini hat and bandana, a flannel shirt, etc.), or a small VBS T-shirt. To make a small T-shirt, photocopy, cut out, and laminate a color copy of the logo and tape it to a baby-sized T-shirt.

# Day 1

★ If you want to get snazzy, use a quick musical introduction and exit when it's time for the puppet to come and go.

The puppet (Dakota) can be a boy or girl. He (or she) should appear a little disheveled and flustered each day. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly, and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning or turning its head or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!)

**Dakota:** Enter appearing flustered, turning your head dramatically from side to side several times. Then look up, then look down, then look all around.

**Teacher:** Hi there, Dakota. What seems to be the trouble?

**Dakota:** I'm soooooo frustrated!

**Teacher:** Why?

**Dakota:** Well, I was supposed to be at the gold mine an hour ago, but I'm lost. I can't figure out if it's this way, or that way, or which way. Turn your head as you say this.

**Teacher:** Pick up a map. Let me look at this map, and I'll try to help you out. Look at it for a few seconds, then show it to the puppet. It looks like all you need to do is go down the road that way about five miles, then turn that way and go another five miles, then hike up this little lane for a mile or two, then take a right, then take the first left, then another left, then two more rights, and you'll be right there!

**Dakota:** Groan. Why does finding your way have to be so hard?

**Teacher:** It doesn't have to be. I know a place you can find your way to easily.

**Dakota:** Slump down and speak sarcastically. Where's that? Timbuktu?

**Teacher:** No, somewhere more important than that. The Bible is our perfect map for life, and it tells us the way to heaven.

**Dakota:** Heaven? I'm not thinking about that yet!

**Teacher:** I know. But we need to be ready. And the Bible tells us the way.

**Dakota:** What is the way to heaven?

**Teacher:** It's really not what is the way, but Who.

**Dakota:** What do you mean by that?

**Teacher:** The Bible tells us that Jesus is the way to heaven. He's THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

**Dakota:** I don't get it.

**Teacher:** There's only one way to live forever and get to heaven, and that's by believing in Jesus. Point to the Bold Claims poster—Jesus is the only way to heaven! He truly IS God, He truly IS perfect, and He truly IS THE only way to life forever in heaven. Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one else has another, dif-

ferent way. If anyone tries to tell you there's another way to heaven, don't believe it. Don't be fooled by fakes! **DON'T BE FOOLED BY COUNTERFEITS!** Point to today's daily overview poster. **Only Jesus is the way.**

**Dakota:** Now I get it. There's no one like Jesus. He's the one I can trust completely.

**Teacher:** You certainly can. All other people are just people. Jesus is GOD! He'll never let you down. Now you'd better get on your way to the gold mine.

**Dakota:** Agitated and excited. **The gold mine? Oh, man, I forgot! Yikes! Help! Oh, no! I've gotta scam. See you later!**

**Teacher:** See you later, Dakota. Boys and girls, while Dakota heads to the gold mine, let's say, "**DON'T BE FOOLED BY COUNTERFEITS! Only Jesus is the way!**" Do so.

Show them the coin they will receive at the end of the day from their team leaders and repeat the saying together: Don't be fooled by counterfeits! Then sing the following song together to the tune of *Oh, My Darling Clementine*.

Verse One

Oh, God's Son, Oh, God's Son  
Oh, God's Son is Jesus Christ

Oh, God's Son, Oh, God's Son  
Oh, God's Son is Jesus Christ

NOTE: Every day new verses will be added to this song.

## Time to Review (Remaining class time)

Choose from the following options. Specific supplies for this section are not listed in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose.

### Option One

If you purchased the student pages, pass them out now and complete the Precious Gold Memory Verse sections during class and anything else you have time for.

Motivate the kids to complete the rest of their student pages at home because they are full of good stuff! Have the team leaders check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving bonus points to the teams for their hard work!

### Option Two

If you didn't purchase the student pages, continue with the directions that follow, choosing according to your time.

#### Part One: Precious Gold Memory Verses

Today's memory verse is listed first, with directions. If time allows, practice tomorrow's verse, as well.

- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2**
- Memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Pack)**

★ You can also wait and have team leaders pass the student guides out at the end of the day.

★ The back page of each day's student page parallels this section. The front page of the student page provides a review of the day's teaching.



# Day 1

**Today's Verse:** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Practice this verse several times, using today's memory verse poster as a reference, then try the following challenge.

**Challenge:** Get ready to gallop! Start at one side of the room and, while galloping, try to say the verse perfectly before reaching the other side.

**Tomorrow's Verse:** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again.

## Part Two: Go and Do

Share one or more of the following ideas and challenge the kids to complete it now or at home, depending on the choice and how much class time you have.

1. **Act out the Woman at the Well Bible account you heard today.**
2. **Jesus is our Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). Write the name JESUS on a rock with a permanent marker. Decorate the rock and keep it as a reminder. Discuss what it means for Jesus to be our Rock.**
3. **One way Jesus is unique is He is the Creator (Colossians 1:15–17). Make a poster showing something Jesus created.**
4. **Make up a song with today's Bible verse.**

## Song: Jesus at the Well

Sung to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*.

Jesus at the well  
Jesus at the well  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
Jesus at the well

He talks to the gal  
He talks to the gal  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
He talks to the gal

The gal is amazed  
The gal is amazed  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
The gal is amazed

He tells her He is God  
He tells her He is God  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
He tells her He is God

She goes and gets her friends  
She goes and gets her friends  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
She goes and gets her friends

Her friends believe, too  
Her friends believe, too  
Hi-ho, the derry-o  
Her friends believe, too