

OVERVIEW OF LESSONS

LAUNCH LESSON: THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE

Key Bible text

- John 1:1–5, 14, 18; 20:30–31

Big idea

Jesus is God, who is the source of all life.

Overview

The Launch Lesson introduces John's Gospel and sets the scene for the unit. Students explore the three key terms: beginning, word and light. By the end of the lesson, students will understand that Jesus is God and has been with God since the beginning of time. Jesus gave life to the world, as God did.

Sensitivity triggers: **None identified.**

STILLA 1: THE PERFORMER OF SIGNS

Key Bible text

- John 2:1–12; 4:46–54; 5:1–15; 6:1–15

Big idea

Jesus' signs point to who he is and what he has come to do.

Overview

This Stilla introduces students to four of the signs that Jesus performed. John recorded these signs to help readers believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, and the one who brings life. By the end of the Stilla, students will understand that John records the signs that Jesus performed to show that Jesus is who he claims to be. Students are introduced to the 4-3-2-1 Look strategy for exploring text.

Sensitivity triggers: **Friends or family who are sick.**

STILLA 2: THE LIGHT

Key Bible text

- John 9:1–41

Big idea

Jesus is the light that gives life.

Overview

This Stilla considers the difference between physical and spiritual blindness. It explores the story of the man born blind. While some characters in the story suggest that the man is blind because of sin, Jesus makes it clear that this is not the case. By the end of the Stilla, students will understand that Jesus heals people of spiritual blindness. Students use the sentence-phrase-word strategy to think through the passage and use an abridged version of the 4-3-2-1 Look strategy.

Sensitivity triggers: **The idea that blindness could be caused by sin, even though Jesus refutes this clearly.**

STILLA 3: THE SHEPHERD

Key Bible text

- John 10:1–30; Ezekiel 34:11–16

Big idea

Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for his people.

Overview

This Stilla explores the metaphors of the gate and the shepherd that are used to describe Jesus in John 10. Students consider the significance of Jesus knowing our names and what it means that Christians hear and follow his voice. Students discuss the issues that are raised as they explore four passages from John 10 and discover the relationship between Ezekiel 34 and Jesus.

Sensitivity triggers: **None identified.**

STILLA 4: THE LIFE-GIVER

Key Bible text

- John 11:1–54; Psalm 145

Big idea

Jesus reveals his power to give eternal life.

Overview

This Stilla explores the seventh sign in John’s Gospel. This sign draws attention to the fundamental characteristics of Jesus: that he is the Son of God who has power over death. Students look at the connections between believing and seeing, and faith and glory. They explore the different responses to Jesus’ signs and consider what Jesus’ signs mean for their understanding of who Jesus is.

Sensitivity triggers: Friends and family who have died.

STILLA 5: THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Key Bible text

- John 14:1–21

Big idea

People do not have to be troubled because Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Overview

This Stilla explores Jesus’ claim that he is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus tells his disciples not to be troubled because he is preparing a place for them and he will come back and take them with him. Students briefly examine the time between Lazarus’ death in John 11 and John 14 before exploring John 14:1–4 using 4-3-2-1 Look. Students are also given the opportunity to consider the exclusivity of Jesus’ claims.

Sensitivity triggers: Students who are feeling troubled and in need of comfort.

STILLA 6: THE FREEDOM-GIVER

Key Bible text

- John 18–19

Big idea

Jesus gives his life and the guilty go free.

Overview

This Stilla spends considerable time on the crucifixion narrative. Students watch the John’s Gospel video of John 18 and 19. They explore the beliefs about Jesus each of the characters in the story have and reflect on their own beliefs about Jesus. Students also explore how grace and atonement are important in the Christian faith.

Sensitivity triggers: Jesus’ death on the cross.

LANDING LESSON: THE UNEXPECTED LIFE-GIVER

Key Bible text

- John 20–21

Big idea

The resurrected Jesus gives life to all who believe.

Overview

This lesson is spent reflecting over the unit as a whole, and investigating the last part of John’s Gospel. Students are reminded that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and the source of life.

Sensitivity triggers: None identified.