



1 Jesus's Mission

Key Theme

- Jesus came to save sinners.

Key Passages

- John 3:16–18, 12:27–28, 17:1–5; Acts 4:12

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Jesus glorified the Father.
- Explain what Jesus did for sinners.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by writing out the first two letters of each word. They will then try to recite the verse using only the letter clues they have written on the sheet.



Activity 1: Jesus's Mission Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus's Mission Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus came to earth with a purpose—a mission. That purpose was to glorify the Father. He was obedient to His Father even unto death. And His death provided eternal life with God for people who believe in Him.



Activity 2: Pick a Point Review Game

Students will answer lesson review questions in teams. They will pick points of random values for each correct answer.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



JESUS'S MISSION CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one Jesus's Mission Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Jesus's Mission Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus's Mission Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Year 3, Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster



PICK A POINT REVIEW GAME

- ☐ Print and cut apart the Pick a Point Game Point Cards from the Resource DVD ROM. Put them into a bag or basket.
- ☐ Print one Pick a Point Questions Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Pick a Point Game Point Cards in a bag or basket
- ☐ Pick a Point Questions Sheet



Memory Verse

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

When we think of Jesus Christ and His short ministry on earth, we often think of the miracles—feeding multitudes (Matthew 14:13–21); healing the crippled, blind, and sick (Mark 2:1–12; John 9:1–7; Mark 5); and befriending sinners (Luke 19:1–8; John 4:1–26). Jesus was a man on a mission. But His mission was not merely to rid the world of hunger, pain, sickness, or sadness.

Jesus's primary reason for coming to earth was to glorify His Father. Even as a boy, Jesus spoke of this to Mary and Joseph in the Temple when He said, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). And when the hour for His death had come, He prayed that the Father would glorify Him so that He could glorify the Father (John 17:1). Another prayer demonstrated that same purpose. When He considered His approaching death, Jesus prayed, "Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name" (John 12:27–28).

Though Jesus was God from the beginning and never ceased to be God, He willingly set aside His own glory to make Himself a humble servant: "... taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men ... He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7–8). Jesus glorified the Father by finishing the work that the Father had given Him to do—even unto death (John 17:4).

The Father's will for Jesus included more than His death on the Cross. God's plan for Jesus's life, death, and Resurrection was about saving the lost. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). We read that Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13). The Apostle Paul understood this and stated it plainly in his letter to Timothy: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). He came to save sinners, and the salvation He offered would bring eternal life (John 5:24, 3:15, 10:28).

How does one receive the salvation and eternal life Jesus purchased by His death on the Cross? Being born again is a work of the Spirit, not the flesh (John 3), so we must be careful about trivializing salvation

as a raised hand, a walk down the church aisle, or a repeated prayer. But receiving the gift of salvation does involve the following things. You must come to Him. Believe that He is. Acknowledge your sinfulness before God. Humbly repent of your sins, which means to turn from them and forsake them. Accept the truth that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16–18).

Jesus continues to call, seek, and save those who humbly place their faith in Him (Matthew 11:28–29).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

What do we mean when we speak about Jesus glorifying God? To glorify God means to extol Him, agree with what He says about Himself, worship Him in the splendor of holiness, and submit to Him in humble obedience (1 Chronicles 16; John 17:4). God Himself described His glory: "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). God's glory is manifested through His marvelous attributes. And God, in His grace, chose to display these attributes to mankind through the amazing work of His Son in salvation. Everything Jesus is, everything He did on earth, was God's glory on display.

We see God's compassion in Jesus, who healed those who were sick; we see God's omnipotence in Jesus, who rebuked the wind and calmed the sea; we see God's mercy and grace in Jesus, who forgave repentant sinners; we see God's omniscience in Jesus, who knew the thoughts of those around Him; we see God's holiness in Jesus, who lived a perfect life without sin; and, finally, we see God's justice and love in Jesus, who died on the Cross, taking the wrath of God against sin and providing forgiveness and eternal life for all who trust in Him.

God created us for His own glory (Isaiah 43:6–7), our good works are so others will give God glory (Matthew 5:16), everything we do is to be done for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), and God's plan is to fill

the earth with the knowledge of His glory (Habakkuk 2:14). So God is all about His own glory!

If we were to seek our own glory, we would be called proud or arrogant. So what does it mean that God seeks His own glory? Doesn't that make Him a narcissist? This is a frequently misunderstood subject, chiefly because we forget the difference between the infinite, eternal, holy God, and ourselves, who are finite and fallen.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer given is: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." Indeed, our failure or refusal to worship and honor God would be idolatry. So if mankind's highest good and greatest aim in life is the glory of God, how can God have any other aim? If idolatry is worshipping anyone or anything as god, instead of the true God, then for God to seek any other end than His own glory would amount to idolatry on God's part. Since He is the eternal, infinite Creator, He deserves all glory, so for Him to seek His own glory is not selfishness, but entirely proper.

As J.I. Packer wrote:

If it is right for man to have the glory of God as his goal, can it be wrong for God to have the same goal? If man can have no higher purpose than God's glory, how can God? If it is wrong for man to seek a lesser end than this, it would be wrong for God, too. The reason it cannot be right for man to live for himself, as if He were God, is because He is not God. However, it cannot be wrong for God to seek His own glory, simply because He is God. Those who insist that God should not seek His glory in all things are really asking that He cease to be God. And there is no greater blasphemy than to will that. (J.I. Packer, *God's Plans for You*, Crossway, 2001, p. 29.)

God is glorious, and He wants His fame—His glory—to be seen and enjoyed by His creatures. Jesus's goal was to glorify His Father, and that must be our goal too. But what does it mean to glorify God, and how do we do that in our normal, day-to-day lives?

One way we glorify God is to extol His attributes—such as His holiness, faithfulness, omniscience, omnipotence, mercy, grace, sovereignty, and

love—proclaiming them to others as we tell them about the amazing salvation He alone offers. David wrote in Psalm 22:

I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! (Psalm 22:22–23)

Jesus said that He came to do the will of the Father. He glorified God by His obedience to His Father. So another way we glorify God is by living a life that pleases Him. That means we don't lie, we don't steal, we obey and respect governing authorities, we love others like Jesus did, etc. To obey God is to glorify Him. But it is not just external acts; rather, obedience should come from our hearts. Without a vibrant relationship with Jesus, we cannot glorify God. The key to glorifying God is to be living in fellowship with Him—to be abiding in Christ (John 15). Is His life in you? Are you living in fellowship with Him who loved you and gave Himself up for you (Galatians 2:20)? Are you being conformed to the image of the one who created you (Colossians 3:10)? Are you abiding in Him and bearing fruit to the glory of God—and thereby proving to be His disciple (John 15:8)?



BEFORE THE THRONE

Savior, my Redeemer, I bless your name. Your complete and total submission to the Father is amazing to me. Knowing that you loved your broken and fallen creation enough to suffer and die so that we would have a way to live eternally with you is incredibly humbling. In response to such love, I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. Too often I fail miserably. I must make my time with you a priority, so that your Spirit living through me becomes more natural. Help me to spend more time with you in your Word—studying it, memorizing it, talking about it—and praying. I want to be more like you. Help me to encourage my students to do the same.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus's Mission Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ Jesus's Mission Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus's Mission Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will discover what Jesus's mission was when He was on earth.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Jesus's ministry had begun. He lived a perfect life. And because of that, He alone could offer the redemption and forgiveness we need to be accepted by God. Because He was without sin, He could take the punishment for all sinners who would turn to Him in repentance and faith. We have talked about His birth and the start of His ministry.



Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. As Jesus began His work, He started to call His followers. As they heard His call, they left their jobs, family, and friends to follow Him. And their lives were changed forever. There is so

John 17:1-5

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

much to learn about Jesus and His life. What comes to mind first when you think of Jesus's life on earth? *Allow discussion.*

You may think of His birth—Christmas! Or the many miracles He performed—healing the sick, feeding the hungry, forgiving sinners, and even raising the dead! You may think of His crucifixion, His Resurrection from the dead, and His ascension back into heaven to be with His Father.

All these things were very important to Jesus's life. But why did He come? What does the Bible say about that?

Turn to John 17:1-5. This will help us understand a little better. We will be reading part of a prayer Jesus prayed before His death. As we read this, remember that Jesus is speaking. He is the Son. He is speaking to God the Father. Let's read it and see what we can learn. *John 17:1-5. Choose students to read the verses.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Now let's answer some questions about what we read, so we can understand it better.

Observe the Text

? Starting with verse one, who was Jesus praying to? *John 17:1. His Father.*

? When Jesus said "the hour has come," what hour was He talking about? What was going on here? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus knew that the hour had come—the time had come for Him to be crucified. And this was part of a prayer He made to His Father.

? Also in verse one, what did Jesus ask God to do? *John 17:1. Glorify Your Son.*

Jesus knew He was to die very soon. And Jesus's death on the Cross would bring Him glory. His death would also bring the Father glory! Jesus came that God would be glorified.

? Someone read #1 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Glorified. Have students complete #1.*

? Good. Jesus came to glorify God through His life and His death. But why else did Jesus come? What would Jesus give for believers? Will someone read John 17:2 again for us? The answer is there. *Assign a reader. John 17:2.*

? What will Jesus Christ give to sinners who believe? *John 17:2. Eternal life.*

Yes. Jesus came to give eternal life to sinners. And He explained what eternal life is. Look at John 17:3. This is our new memory verse. Let's read it from the Memory Verse Poster together. *Read John 17:3 together.*

? What is eternal life? What do those who have eternal life know? *John 17:3. They know the only true God and Jesus Christ.*

- ? Look at John 17:3 again. Who sent Jesus Christ to earth? *John 17:3. God.*
Yes. God the Father sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to earth. Jesus brought eternal life to sinners. And that was another of Jesus's missions on earth.
- ? Look at #2 on your class notes. This is another reason Jesus came to earth. Will someone read that? How will you answer? *Assign a reader. Life. Have students complete #2.*
- ? What was the other reason Jesus came to earth? Look at #1 on your class notes. *To glorify God.*
- ? How did Jesus glorify His Father? Look at John 17:4. What did Jesus do on earth? What does John 17:4 tell us Jesus did? *John 17:4. He finished the work God sent Him to do.*
- ? Jesus finished the work God gave Him to do. Will someone read #3 on your class notes? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Finishing. Have students complete #3.*

Jesus finished the work God had sent Him to do when He came to earth, lived, died, and rose again so that sinners might be saved by turning to Him, repenting, and believing. Jesus's death on the Cross and His Resurrection are why Jesus came to earth. He obeyed His Father even to death on the Cross, and His Father was glorified.

Turn in your Bibles to John 12:27–28. Here Jesus was talking to some people along with His disciples. This was just before He would be betrayed and killed. Will someone read those verses please? *John 12:27–28. Choose someone to read the verses.*

John 12:27–28

- ? How was Jesus feeling? It tells us in verse 27. *His soul was troubled.*
Jesus was troubled. Don't forget Jesus was a man. And He felt pain the same as you and I do. He knew that He would soon be crucified. He was thinking about the punishment He would have to endure—God's punishment for sin, sin He did not commit.
- ? What kind of prayer would you expect from Him? What kind of prayer would you have said if it were you? *Allow discussion.*
- ? What did Jesus say? Look in John 12:27. *What shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour?"*

I think that is what we would pray if something horrible was about to happen, right? Something like this, "Father God, please help us. We don't want to go through with this. Save us from it."

But Jesus said that He could NOT pray that way. He knew the Father could not save Him from this hour. It would not have been right. This was why He had come. This would bring sinners eternal life and would glorify God's name!

- ? What did Jesus say about this particular time and what He was about to do? It is in John 12:27. *He had come for this very purpose.*

Yes. This was why Jesus had come—to die on the Cross, rise from the dead, and bring hope to sinners for eternal life. This was His purpose, and He would not turn back.

- ? In verse 28 Jesus talks to His Father, and God the Father answers. Someone read John 12:28 again. *Assign a reader.* Who would be glorified by what Jesus was about to do? *God's name would be glorified.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus came to glorify God and His name. Jesus had finished the work God had given Him to do. What was that work? That work was providing salvation to sinners through His life, death, and Resurrection. This was the purpose for Jesus's life. This is why Jesus came. His life and death glorified God as He made a way for sinners to have eternal life.

- ? Look at #4 on your class notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Work. Have students complete #4.*



READ THE WORD

John 3:16–18

The Bible tells us more about the eternal life Jesus came to offer sinners. Turn to John 3:16–18. Let's read those verses. *John 3:16–18. Assign a reader.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? How does that verse start? What does God love? *John 3:16. The world.*
- That's right. God created the world. He loves the world. But man sinned, right? And that sin separated man from God. This verse explains what God did so that man could once again be with Him forever.
- ? Who did God send into the world He loved? *John 3:16. His Son.*
- ? What does God give to those who believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son? *John 3:16. Everlasting life.*
- ? Take a look at #5 on your class notes. Will someone read that for us? How would you answer it? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #5.*
- ? And what about #6? Who will read that for us? How would you answer it? *Assign a reader. Believe. Have students complete #6.*

Yes! Remember, one reason Jesus came was to give eternal life to sinners. And He promises that everyone who comes to Him, believes in Him, trusts in Him, and repents of their sins will have eternal life.

? But what about those people who do not believe in Christ, trust in Him, and repent of their sins? What will happen to them? Look in John 3:18. *They will be condemned.*

? Will someone read #7 on the class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Condemned. Have students complete #7.*

This is serious stuff. These verses are God's Word to us—just like all the Bible is. And this verse, as well as the rest of the Bible, is for every sinner—all of us. Jesus came so sinners could have eternal life.

? How will they get eternal life? Look at #6 on your class notes. *Believe in Jesus.*

And some people will not have eternal life. They will be condemned. Why will they be condemned? We just answered that on #7 on your class notes. *Because they do not believe in Jesus Christ.*

? What is the name of God's Son—the Son who brought eternal life to those who would believe? *Jesus.*

We have one more verse to look at. It tells us something very special about Jesus and His name. And it tells us about salvation in Jesus Christ. Turn to Acts 4:12. Someone read that for us. *Acts 4:12. Choose a student to read the verses.*

Acts 4:12

? What does this verse tell us? *Allow discussion.*

? Where can true salvation be found? *In Jesus Christ.*

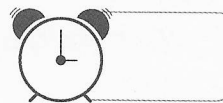
That's right. There is no other name that can save us. Jesus alone offers salvation. He is the only way.

? Look at #8 on your class notes. How will you finish it? *Assign a reader. One. Have students complete #8.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus came to give eternal life to all who would believe in Him. When the Bible tells us that we must know and believe in Jesus, it means more than just knowing about Him. It means trusting Him and accepting the free gift of forgiveness He offers. It means making Jesus the most important thing in our lives—loving Him with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. It means that you understand that you are a sinner, you are sorry for your sins, and you want to turn away from your sinful life and obey Jesus.

? Take a look at #9 on your class notes. It is a bit different. Will someone read the question? *Assign a reader. And let's read through the choices and each possible answer together. Help the students by reading through the question and answers one at a time. Encourage them to put a check for each answer as you read them.*



➤ If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



Pick a Point Review Game

MATERIALS

- ☐ Pick a Point Questions Sheet
- ☐ Game Point Cards in a basket or other container
- ☐ Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the children into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a number card from the basket. If no one can answer the question, you may want to allow teams to look the answers up in their Bibles. The first team to get the answer can draw a point!

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. The effort to earn points will keep the students tuned into the game. Keep a list of the teams' points to determine the "winner" for the day. If time allows, repeat the questions!

OK. Now you are going to get into teams. This game is called "Pick a Point." Your team

will get a chance to answer a question. If you get the answer right, you will draw a point to see what that answer was worth! I'll keep score here on the board.

Get together with your team, and let's get started. *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God had a plan. He sent Jesus to earth on a mission. That mission was to live a life of obedience so He could die. Jesus took the punishment that others deserved. He died a painful death on the Cross. He completed the work the Father had sent Him to do, and God was glorified. Now all who repent of their sin and place their trust in Christ, are saved from sin and have eternal life with God because of what Jesus accomplished.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This lesson is called Jesus's Mission. His mission means His job, His purpose, or the work He came to do. We talked about two reasons Jesus came to the earth.

- ? What was one reason Jesus came to earth? You can look at #1 on your class notes for a hint. *To glorify God.*

That's right. Jesus came to glorify God. He glorified God by living a life of perfect obedience. Jesus did all the Father asked Him to do; He finished the work God had given Him.

- ? What was the other reason Jesus came to earth? Look at #2 on your class notes. *To give eternal life to sinners.*

Yes, and that *was* the work God had given Jesus to do. He offered salvation and eternal life to sinners. Jesus did that through His life, His death, and His Resurrection from the grave.

Jesus came to die for sinners so they would not perish but would have eternal life. Jesus came to die for sins He did not commit. And because He was obedient to the Father, even unto death, those who believe in Him will get to spend eternity with Him.

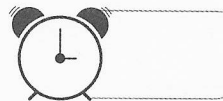
GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

There is only one God. He sent His only Son—Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Him.

? Refer to Year 3, Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. Do you remember when Jesus called His disciples? What did they do? How did they react? *They dropped everything and followed Him.*

They did. And their lives were changed forever. Jesus promises to change your life, to forgive your sins, and to give you eternal life, joy, and hope. Knowing Jesus is not just knowing about Him but learning who He is, what He did, why He did it, and loving Him with a grateful heart for taking the punishment for sin and granting forgiveness and eternal life in exchange.

Eternal life is knowing the one true God and knowing Jesus Christ, whom God sent. Knowing Him will change your life. You will never be the same. We can only know Him that well by learning about Him in God's Word—the Bible. I pray you will continue to learn about Him all your life and come to know Him as your Lord and Savior.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His love. He loved the world so much that He planned Jesus's mission even before time began.
- Thank God that Jesus made a way for people who were lost and separated from God to be forgiven, so they could live eternally with Him.
- Ask God to help us to continue to grow and learn about Him all our life, so we can complete the mission He has given us!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.