

We Believe in Jesus

Lesson 2

The Christ

Lesson Guide



thirdmill

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or manuscript versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**

- **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
- **Schedule viewing** — The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.

- **While you are watching the lesson**

- **Take notes** — The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
- **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
- **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.

- **After you watch the lesson**

- **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
- **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:26)

The word “Christ” is a title that identifies Jesus’ service and honor in God’s kingdom.

“Christ”:

- “Anointed one.”
- Greek translation of the Hebrew word “messiah.”
- Common term referring to:
 - People anointed with oil to mark them as God’s special servants.
 - Descendants of David that served as kings.
 - A special anointed one who would accomplish all of God’s saving purposes.

II. Birth and Preparation (3:17)

Historical Summary:

- Angels announced Jesus’ birth to Mary and Joseph.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

- Angels announced Jesus' birth to nearby shepherds.
- Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Christ.
- Magi from the east recognized Jesus as the King of the Jews.
- Joseph and his family fled to Egypt to hide from Herod.
- When Herod died, they settled in the town of Nazareth.
- When Jesus was 12 years old, the religious leaders and teachers were impressed with his knowledge and wisdom.
- When Jesus was about 30 years old he began preparing himself for public ministry:
 - Baptized by John the Baptist.
 - Fasted in the wilderness for forty days and resisted Satan's temptations.

A. Incarnation (7:03)

Jesus' permanent assumption of a human nature.

1. Virgin Birth (7:42)

Mary was a virgin when she conceived, carried and gave birth to Jesus.

- Truly human:
 - Developed in Mary's womb.
 - Had both a body and a soul.

- Uncorrupted by sin:
 - Born without sin.
 - The virgin birth points to the supernatural sustaining presence and preservation of God.

- The promised Messiah:

Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecies and proved that he was the Christ.

2. **Heir of David (14:05)**

Gives Jesus the legal right to be the Messiah.

- A future king from David's line would eventually restore the kingdom.
- Jesus' genealogies highlight the fact that he descended from David.

3. **Hypostatic Union (16:42)**

Jesus is one person with two distinct natures with each nature retaining its own attributes.

The Chalcedonian Creed summarized the Bible's teaching about the hypostatic union:

- Jesus has two natures: a divine nature and a human nature.
 - Jesus possesses every attribute essential to God.
 - Jesus possesses every attribute essential to human beings.

- Jesus' two natures are distinct.
 - Jesus' human attributes don't hinder his divine attributes.
 - Jesus' divine attributes don't enhance his human attributes.
- Jesus is only one person.
 - Not two persons or two minds.
 - The eternal second person of the Trinity.
 - Fully God and fully human.

B. Baptism (27:34)

1. Confirmed as Christ (27:43)

Jesus held the office of Christ from the beginning of his incarnation.

The Holy Spirit confirmed Jesus as the Christ by descending on him like a dove.

The Father confirmed Jesus as the Christ by speaking audibly from heaven.

2. Anointed to office (28:39)

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism.

3. Fulfilled righteousness (29:45)

Jesus had to fulfill all the necessary righteous works appointed to him.

Jesus affirmed and identified himself with the true faithful remnant within Israel.

C. Temptation (31:23)

Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert before being tempted by Satan.

Jesus' temptation by Satan paralleled the temptation of Adam and Eve.

Jesus overcame temptation to bring salvation to his people.

1. Obedience (35:06)

Jesus had to learn God's righteousness requirements and to overcome challenges and temptations.

2. Sympathy (35:58)

Jesus grew in compassion and understanding for us as we suffer and struggle with temptation.

3. Impeccability (37:58)

Inability to sin.

Jesus never sinned.

Jesus wasn't capable of sinning.

Because Jesus is impeccable, his obedience and sympathy are increased.

III. Public Ministry (40:35)

Historical Summary:

- Jesus was around 30 years old when he began his public ministry.
- His public ministry lasted around three years.
- He began his public ministry in Capernaum in the region of Galilee.
- He chose twelve disciples and prepared them.
- He ministered in other regions of Israel, including Samaria and Judea.
- He intentionally traveled to Jerusalem to be crucified.

Jesus' main ministry was to proclaim the good news of repentance and faith.

- Ministered to different types of people.
- Met different sized groups.
- Taught in many different types of places.
- Utilized a wide range of teaching strategies.
- Ministered with unique authority.

A. Gospel (43:29)

The gospel is most fundamentally a call to repentance in light of the coming kingdom of God.

1. Kingdom (44:39)

God planned for his eternal kingship to be displayed in his visible kingdom on earth.

Jesus announced the good news that the final stage of God's kingdom on earth was coming in his day.

2. Repentance (47:42)

If Israel wanted to receive God's promised blessings, they had to repent.

We begin to turn away from sin by:

- Feeling genuine sorrow over having broken God's law
- Confessing our guilt to God and asking his forgiveness

Repentance also means:

- Asking God to cleanse and restore us
- Determining to obey God in the future
- Desiring to please God by obeying his commands.

B. Power (52:01)

Jesus' demonstrations of power testified to the truth of his message.

Jesus' miracles exhibited the power of the Holy Spirit:

- Mastery over creation
- Authority over evil spirits
- Healed sickness and disability
- Raised the dead

1. Confirmed Identity (53:54)

Jesus' miraculous works of power confirmed his identity as the Christ:

- demonstrated God's approval of everything he said.
- were associated with the broader office of Christ.
- proved that his gospel message was true.

2. Assured Success (56:00)

Jesus' miracles demonstrated that he had the power necessary to fulfill his claims and promises.

Jesus had all the power he needed to destroy the enemies of his kingdom.

C. Affirmations (58:13)**1. Apostolic Confession (58:32)**

Peter's apostolic confession confirmed that Jesus was the Christ.

Peter's affirmation of Jesus as the Christ was a direct revelation from God.

2. Transfiguration (1:02:03)

The event when Jesus was revealed to his disciples in glory.

- Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain to pray.
- Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.
- God's voice was heard from heaven affirming that Jesus was his Son.

Jesus stood in continuity with the law and the prophets.

Jesus was the Davidic heir who was bringing God's kingdom to earth.

IV. Passion and Death (1:04:57)

The term “passion” refers to the sufferings Jesus endured, especially during the week before his crucifixion.

Historical Summary:

- Around A.D. 30, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast.
- Many people hailed him as Israel’s king in the “Triumphal Entry.”
- Temple cleansing in Jerusalem.
- Jesus engaged in disputes with religious leaders and taught those who listened to him.
- Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper during his final meal with his disciples.
- Jesus gave his disciples instructions through his Farewell Discourse and High Priestly Prayer.
- Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus was arrested, accused before Caiaphas, and stood trial before Pilate and Herod.

- Jesus' disciples abandoned him, and Peter denied him three times.
- Jesus was beaten, ridiculed, and sentenced to death.
- Jesus was crucified the day following his arrest.
- On the cross, Jesus promised mercy to a repentant thief, provided care for his mother, and asked God to forgive those who were putting him to death.
- An earthquake and tearing of the temple veil immediately followed Jesus' death.
- Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb because the Sabbath was about to begin.

A. Triumphal Entry (1:10:29)

Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey in order to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9.

Jesus rode the donkey to:

- Display confidence as Israel's rightful king
- Affirm those that were faithful to his kingdom message
- Rebuke those that weren't faithful to his message

The people in the city welcomed Jesus, but the Jewish leadership rejected him.

The Jewish leaders tried to discredit Jesus.

B. Lord's Supper (1:14:55)

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a Christian sacrament or ordinance.

Jesus used the symbolism of the Passover to draw attention to his own work as the Christ.

- The unleavened bread: Jesus' body
- The cup of wine: Jesus' blood

Jesus taught his disciples to use these elements on a perpetual basis as a memorial until he returns.

1. Atonement (1:17:25)

Jesus' body was given for us.

Jesus' blood was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

2. New Covenant (1:18:02)

The guarantee and renewal of the covenant promises made by God in the days of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David.

C. Crucifixion (1:19:36)

A form of the death penalty used in the ancient Roman Empire.

Jesus' crucifixion served as an atoning offering for sin.

1. Imputation (1:20:26)

The act in which God assigned the guilt of sinners to the person of Jesus.

Jesus offered himself on the cross as a substitute for his people:

- Our sacrifice: Romans 3:25; Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 2:2
- Our ransom: Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 9:15

2. Judgment (1:23:53)

Human death is always a divine judgment against sin.

Jesus' death was a divine judgment against sin.

V. Exaltation (1:28:05)

Historical Summary:

- Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week after his crucifixion and burial.
- Over a period of forty days, he appeared to many of his disciples.
- Jesus blessed his people and ascended visibly into heaven.
- Jesus presented his death to God as an atoning sacrifice and sat down at God's right hand.
- Jesus began his rule over the affairs of his people.

A. Resurrection (1:29:52)**1. Plan of Redemption (1:30:39)**

Redemption depended on God fulfilling his covenant promises to establish his kingdom on earth.

2. Blessings of Salvation (1:31:27)

Blessings we receive as part of our salvation:

- Justification
- Regeneration
- Eternal inheritance
- Good works and a true witness
- Resurrection of believers

B. Ascension (1:34:25)

Jesus' ascension occurred when he was miraculously lifted into heaven into the special presence of God.

1. Apostolic Authority (1:35:03)

God gave Jesus authority and power over all creation.

Jesus delegated some of his authority to his apostles on earth.

There have never been any other apostles that possessed this level of authority.

2. Enthronement (1:36:51)

Jesus presented his sacrifice in the heavenly temple and sat down at the right hand of God.

The enthronement completed Jesus' assumption of the office of Christ.

C. Session (1:41:24)

Jesus' ongoing rule and governing from the place of majesty and power in heaven.

1. Word and Spirit (1:43:24)

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as a gift to the church.

The Holy Spirit empowered the church as Jesus' prophetic witness in the world.

Jesus has continued to send the Spirit to minister to the church in prophetic ways.

Jesus ministers to the church by:

- Preserving the Scriptures
- Gifting ministers to preach the word and evangelize the lost

2. Intercession (1:45:00)

Jesus intercedes with us before the Father.

Jesus paid for our sins on the cross and now intercedes before God for us.

3. Rule (1:48:24)

Jesus' ongoing rule consists of:

- Governing the church
- Ruling the nations
- Ruling as Lord of all creation
- Authority above angels and demons

D. Return (1:50:51)

Jesus will return visibly to consummate God's kingdom on earth.

1. Judgment (1:51:34)

All humanity will be judged on the basis of their works.

People can only do good works if the Holy Spirit indwells them with power.

People who have faith in Christ will be counted as having died for their sins in the death of Christ.

We'll be given authority in the new heavens and new earth to reign with Christ.

2. Renewal (1:54:25)

Jesus will remove the bondage of sin and death from creation.

Jesus has the authority and power to make a perfect world for us.

VI. Conclusion (1:58:46)

Review Questions

1. What details of Jesus' incarnation prove that he is the Christ?
2. How did Jesus' baptism prepare him for ministry?

3. What was the purpose of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness?
4. What is the primary message of the gospel that Jesus proclaimed?

5. Describe some of Jesus' miracles and the implications of Jesus' displays of power.
6. How did Peter's apostolic confession and the transfiguration affirm that Jesus was the Christ?

7. What was the significance of Jesus' triumphal entry?

8. What is the Lord's Supper and what does it symbolize?

9. In what way was Jesus' crucifixion unique?

10. What did the resurrection of Jesus accomplish?

11. How is Jesus' role as Christ related to his ascension?

12. What does Jesus' session entail?

13. What will Jesus accomplish in his final return?

Application Questions

1. What comfort does it bring us to know that Jesus is both fully human and fully God?
2. How should the baptism of Jesus impact the way we relate to unbelievers?
3. What comfort and encouragement do you draw from Jesus having faced and resisted the temptation to sin?
4. What ministries are you currently engaged in, and how are they practically modeling the kingdom of God?
5. What does the process of repentance from sin look like in your life?
6. What reassurance and hope can you draw from the miracles Jesus performed during his earthly ministry?
7. How can you affirm and confess that Jesus is the Christ in your present circumstances and areas of influence?
8. How does the triumphal entry of Jesus encourage us to live in peace in the midst of the ongoing suffering, brokenness and evil in the world?
9. How can you display and communicate to others the benefits you receive from the Lord's Supper?
10. What are some specific ways you can respond to the blessings of salvation you receive from Jesus' resurrection?
11. How does the fact that Jesus is enthroned in heaven affect the way you live your life?
12. What are some encouraging things for you about the fact that Jesus will return and renew all things?
13. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

Glossary

ascension – Event forty days after the resurrection in which Jesus was taken up bodily into heaven in full view of his apostles

atonement – A sacrifice made to remove the guilt of sin and reconcile the sinner with God

Beatitudes – Jesus' statements in Matthew 5:3-12 that each begin with the phrase "Blessed are"

Chalcedon – City in Asia Minor where a church council was held in A.D. 451 to defend traditional Christian doctrines and deny heresies

Chalcedonian Creed – Creed written in A.D. 451 by a church council in the city of Chalcedon that affirmed, among other things, that Jesus is "truly God and truly man"; also called the Chalcedonian Symbol, and the Definition of Chalcedon

Christ – From the Greek word "*christos*" meaning "the anointed" or "anointed one"; closely tied to the Old Testament Hebrew term "messiah"

christos – Greek word (transliteration) for Christ; used in the Septuagint to translate "*mashiach*" or "messiah," meaning "anointed one"

Council of Chalcedon – Church council held in A.D. 451 in the city of Chalcedon that affirmed, among other things, that Jesus is truly God and truly man

crucifixion – a form of the death penalty used in the ancient Roman Empire in which criminals were tied or nailed to a cross and then hung there until they died, typically by suffocation; the means by which Jesus died

David – Second Old Testament king of Israel who received the promise that his descendant would sit on the throne and reign forever

Elijah – Old Testament prophet who appeared along with Moses at the transfiguration of Jesus

Farewell Discourse – Jesus' final words to the eleven faithful apostles found in John 14–16

Gregory of Nazianzus – Bishop of Constantinople and influential theologian who lived from A.D. 325 to 389

Herod the Great – Jewish king appointed by the Romans who ruled from 37 B.C. until his death in 4 B.C.; known to have ordered the slaughter of all male children two years old and under after he learned of Jesus' birth

hypostatic union – Phrase used to express the doctrine that the divine and human natures of Christ are united in one person

impeccability – Inability to sin; often used to refer to the fact that Jesus was incapable of sinning

imputation – The act in which God assigned the guilt of sinners to the person of Christ

incarnation – Term that refers to Jesus' permanent assumption of a human nature

intercession – Mediation or petition through prayer on behalf of another

John the Baptist – New Testament prophet who called for true repentance and proclaimed that the arrival of God's kingdom was near; identified Jesus as the Messiah and prepared the way for Jesus' public ministry

Joseph (the carpenter) – Husband of Mary (the mother of Jesus) and a descendant of King David

Last Supper – Final meal shared by Jesus and his disciples on the night he was betrayed

Lord's Supper – Christian sacrament or ordinance using bread and wine to symbolically commemorate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross until his promised return

Mary – Young Jewish woman who became the mother of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit while she was still a virgin; wife of Joseph the carpenter

mashiach – Hebrew word (transliteration) for "messiah"; anointed one

Messiah – Hebrew word meaning "anointed one"; the great King from David's royal line who would bring about the transition from this age to the age to come; translated "Christos" in Greek

Moses – Old Testament prophet and deliverer who led the Israelites out of Egypt; man with whom God made a national "covenant of law" and who administered the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Covenant to the Israelites; also appeared with Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration

new covenant – The covenant of fulfillment in Christ; first mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31

Passion, the – From the Greek word "*pascho*" (transliteration) meaning "to suffer"; refers to Jesus' suffering and death, beginning the night of his arrest

Passover – Jewish festival remembering when God delivered Israel out of slavery in Egypt

Pentecost – Jewish festival, often called the "Feast of Weeks," that celebrated the early harvest; celebrated by Christians as the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on the early church

repentance – A heartfelt aspect of faith whereby we genuinely reject and turn away from our sin

session – Theological term used to refer to Jesus' ongoing rule and ministry of intercession while seated at the right hand of God the Father

Transfiguration – Event recorded in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36 when Jesus was revealed to his disciples in glory

Triumphal Entry – Jesus' entry into Jerusalem one week prior to his crucifixion and death in which the people laid palm branches and cloaks on the road and loudly praised him