

## Lesson 3 – What a Savior

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### INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson we discovered that a proper understanding of the Bible is essential to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Another important aspect of growing your relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of Who he claimed to be and why He came to earth. This lesson will help us understand His mission and how to begin a relationship with Him.

### WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

From the time He arrived on earth, there have been many opinions about the identity of Jesus. Read the following verses and identify what some people had to say about Him.

*John 3:1, 2*

*John 4:19*

*John 10:19*

*Mark 3:20, 21*

Many of us – including those of us who identify ourselves as Christians – have formed our opinions about Jesus on what other people have said about Him. Read the following verses and identify Who Jesus Himself claimed to be.

*John 5:16-18*

*John 10:30-33*

Although many people think Jesus was ONLY a good teacher or a prophet, He specifically claimed to be God in a human body.

### WHY DID JESUS CHRIST COME?

There is a lot of confusion about why Jesus came to earth. However, Jesus was very clear about the purpose of His mission. Read the following verses and identify His reasons for coming into the world.

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*John 10:10*

*Luke 19:10*

*John 3:16, 17*

*John 14:6*

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn us but to provide a way back into a relationship with God. He came to provide us eternal life by offering Himself as the payment for our sins.

### HOW DO I BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST?

Every relationship has a beginning; an event where you meet and respond to a person's invitation to enter into a relationship with them. Beginning a relationship with Jesus Christ is no different. To begin the relationship is as simple as ABC:

**A** – Admit you're a sinner.

*Romans 3:10, 23*

**B** – Believe Jesus Christ is God, died for your sins, and is the only source of eternal life.

*Romans 5:8 & 6:23*

**C** – Call on Jesus to be the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life.

*Romans 10:9, 10, 13*

### CONCLUSION

The amazing thing about a relationship with Jesus Christ is how much He wants to have a relationship with you. He has done everything to make this relationship possible: lived a sinless life, died on a cross, and rose again. All we have to do is believe in Him and receive His forgiveness.

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### HOMEWORK OPTION #1

One of the greatest joys of being a Christ-follower is sharing the story of your relationship with Jesus Christ. Our story consists of three sections: *1) what life was like before believing in Christ; 2) the circumstances of receiving Christ; and 3) what life has been like since trusting in Christ.*

The apostle Paul told his story like this in Acts 26. Read Acts 26:4-29. In verses 4-11, Paul identifies what his life was like before believing in Christ. In verses 12-23, Paul identifies how he received Christ. In verses 24-29, Paul identifies what his life has been like since trusting in Christ.

The following questions are designed to help you form ideas for sharing your story:

### LIFE BEFORE JESUS CHRIST

1. What was your spiritual viewpoint before receiving Christ?
2. Before you met Christ, how did your spiritual condition negatively affect your life and relationships? Identify specific examples.

### HOW I MET JESUS CHRIST

1. How did you hear or learn the good news about Christ that changed your life?
2. What was it about the good news that affected you?

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3. What was your response to the good news?

4. When did you receive Christ?

### **LIFE SINCE I TRUSTED IN JESUS CHRIST**

1. How did your attitudes and life change after you trusted in Christ?

2. What other benefits have you experienced since trusting in Christ?

3. What problems do you still struggle with and how is God helping you through them?

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Now it's time to write your story. In the space below, use your answers to the questions on the previous pages to write three paragraphs that correspond to the outline Paul used in Acts 26:1-23.

1. *My life before believing in Christ . . .*

2. *The circumstances of receiving Christ . . .*

3. *My life since trusting in Christ . . .*

### **TIPS ON WRITING YOUR STORY**

- Make it personal – it's your story.
- Identify a theme that carries through all three paragraphs.
- Use ordinary language, not spiritual clichés.
- Don't try to be sensational.

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### HOMework OPTION #2

As we've made our way through this lesson, you may have discovered that you've never asked Jesus Christ to be the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life. Even though you haven't yet made that decision, Jesus Christ has been pursuing a relationship with you.

Read John 6:44. According to this verse, God is actively drawing you into a relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Take a few minutes and look back at the events of your life. In the space below, identify the ways God has been drawing you to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. *In the last month . . .*

2. *In the last year . . .*

3. *In the last 5 years . . .*

4. *In your lifetime . . .*