



12

Responding to Jesus

Key Theme

- Jesus is the only way of salvation.

Key Passages

- Luke 4:28–29; Matthew 7:28–29; John 3:18, 3:36, 10:30–31

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the two ways people reacted to Jesus.
- Explain the importance of believing in Jesus Christ.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher.



Activity 1: Responding to Jesus Class Notes

Students will fill out the Responding to Jesus Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

People reacted in one of two ways toward Jesus, His teachings, and His miracles. Some hated Jesus and wanted to kill Him. Others were astonished and believed His teachings. People have those same two reactions to Jesus today. God's Word says that those who do not believe will be condemned. But those who do believe will not be condemned. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. It is only through Him that we are saved.



Activity 2: Bible Baseball

Students will review the lesson by answering questions and running around the bases.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

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

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



RESPONDING TO JESUS CLASS NOTES

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

- ☐ Responding to Jesus Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Responding to Jesus Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

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

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Lesson Theme Posters



BIBLE BASEBALL

- ☐ Print one copy of the Bible Baseball Components from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Cut out the hits and put them into a cup labeled "Hits."
- ☐ Keep the Bible Baseball Questions for your use.

- ☐ Bible Baseball Hits
- ☐ Bible Baseball Questions sheet
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Cup or container for the baseball hits



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



Memory Verse

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

► **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 along with this background.

As we have studied Jesus Christ in the Gospels, we have seen that His life, His character, and His ministry were as diverse as they were controversial. Perhaps that is why God chose four distinct writers to tell of His life. Each one was called to present an individual portrait of Jesus. And yet, when you read them together, they display a fuller, richer picture of the God-Man, the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ!

The very sad truth of the matter is that He was not widely accepted when He lived on earth—and is still not widely accepted today. This perhaps brings to light a better understanding of Jesus's teaching: that we must enter by the narrow, difficult gate to gain eternal life. For the broad gate leads to destruction and death, and many enter through it (Matthew 7:13–14).

Often, the reactions to His teachings were far from positive. You would think that the God-Man would be welcome in the synagogue and His teachings would be anticipated and sought after. But that was not the case. The religious rulers repeatedly heard what He said and were filled with wrath. They were frequently stirred to intense anger by His claims, and in their anger they would threaten His very life (Luke 4:28–29).

It wasn't just His teaching that angered them, but His miracles as well. The Bible tells us that after He healed a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years, the Pharisees and Jews persecuted Him and sought to kill Him (John 5:15–16). Another time the Jews were so angry they picked up stones to stone Him (John 10:31). At this point they admitted why they were moved to murder: "You, being a man, make Yourself God" (John 10:33).

These reactions from the religious rulers were not fueled by truth, but by jealousy and hatred that someone would claim to be God—and that this Man would demand their respect, submission, and attention.

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13). Those who saw their need listened and learned from the Messiah. The Bible tells us that they were astonished at His teaching, for Jesus taught as one who had authority, unlike the scribes in the synagogues (Matthew 7:28–29; Luke 4:21–22). His teaching and His miracles led believers to proclaim, "He [Jesus] has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak" (Mark 7:37). So even while many wanted to destroy Him, those who

witnessed His life, and had eyes to see the truth, were convinced that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).

This division of belief continues today. Some people are astonished and transformed by His Word as they ponder His grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness. Others mock the Word and refuse to humble themselves before the Son of God, who came to bring eternal life to those who would know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3).

Jesus spoke clearly and directly about the truth He had come to reveal. His words were, and are still today, convicting to eternal life or condemnation.

He who believes 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 3:18)

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. (John 3:36)

Our prayer for the unsaved, especially those we are privileged to teach, ought to be, "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion" (Hebrews 3:15).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

It has become popular in our Western culture to use Jesus to promote personal or political agendas. *What Would Jesus Eat?* is the title of an eating program and cookbook, touting the health benefits of a 2,000-year-old Middle Eastern diet. "What Would Jesus Drive?" is a website of the Evangelical Environmental Network, encouraging Christians to drive eco-responsible vehicles.

Others quote Jesus to promote their views on being tolerant, such as "Do not judge, lest you be judged!" or "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone," ripping these words out of their context to make a point. In these and many other circumstances, Jesus is redefined—sometimes as a good moral teacher, an ethicist, or an environmentalist. But for those who read the Gospels in context and seek to understand who Jesus was and what He said, this trivializing of Jesus's person and work in order to use Him to support one's own agenda is nothing short of blasphemy.

Jesus clearly taught that He was much more than a great moral teacher. He claimed over and over to be

God. He said that He and the Father are one, a claim His audience understood to be a claim to deity (John 10:30–33). He used the Old Testament name of God I AM to refer to Himself (John 8:58). Jesus authenticated His claim of deity by miracles demonstrating power over nature, over disease, and even over death. He claimed to forgive sin and then validated His claim with physical healings (Luke 5:17–26).

In addition to His claim to be God, Jesus claimed to be the only way of salvation—the only way that sinners can be reconciled to God. He stated, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). He also said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). And consider this: “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God” (Luke 12:8–9).

As Christians, we must be careful not to water down the gospel or Jesus’s claims in order to promote a feel-good Jesus or a Jesus who is here merely to fix our unhealthy eating habits or to promote environmentalism. And we must not ever change the gospel in order to be seen as culturally tolerant or inclusive. It is actually more loving to tell people of sin, judgment, and salvation through Christ than it is to leave them believing a false gospel, only to have them perish outside of Christ and His great salvation.

Jesus was not just a good moral teacher or example for us to follow. No, He was the eternal Son of God,

the second Person of the Trinity, who claimed to be the exclusive Savior of men and women. Jesus brings division. The gospel is a stumbling block to many. A misguided response to a false presentation of Jesus will not save anyone. But when people understand their need for a Savior because of their sin and then recognize Jesus as the sinless Son of God crucified and raised, then by God’s grace they can repent and trust that Jesus, the God-Man, is mighty to save.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, you astonish me. Your life and your Word reveal your love and compassion for people—for me! You healed; you taught; you raised the dead! Your Words and power showed people your divine nature. I praise you for that. Yet, I am saddened that so many reacted to you with hatred, jealousy, and hard hearts. I pray for my students, my unsaved loved ones, and my unsaved friends and neighbors. May they respond to the gospel with belief and astonishment one day. Give me the boldness and sensitivity to share your Word with them. Help me to love people enough to tell them of sin, judgment, and salvation through Christ. Thank you for saving me. I am forever grateful.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God’s Word.



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.



Responding to Jesus Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ Responding to Jesus Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Responding to Jesus 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. We will finish them together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will recognize that the people who heard Jesus teach had two reactions to Him—they either became angry with Him and hated Him or were astonished by what He said and believed.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to past Lesson Theme Posters. In the last several lessons, we have talked about what Jesus taught and did while He was on earth—His purpose, His miracles, and who He said He was. Last week we spoke about what Jesus expected from His disciples—those who wanted to follow Him.



Refer to Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. How does Jesus want His followers to live? Allow discussion.

➤ The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

► 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.

Luke 4:28–29

Jesus said that His true disciples—those who wanted to come after Him—would learn to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Him. He meant that those of us who want to follow Christ will live lives that want to please Him more than ourselves. We will want to be obedient to His Word. And we will want to make Jesus Christ the most important thing in our lives—more important than anything the world has to offer—more important than anything we own or anyone we know.

This was a hard lesson for the people to learn in Jesus's time, and it is still a difficult lesson for us today. And that is one reason why people reacted so differently to Jesus back then, and now. Today we are going to see what some of those people thought of Jesus and why they acted the way they did.

We'll start in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus was speaking in the synagogue. Listen to these verses. We'll see one way the people reacted to Jesus. *Read Luke 4:28–29.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Wow! Let's take a closer look at this and find out what was going on.

Observe the Text

? Where did this take place? *Re-read Luke 4:28. In the synagogue.*

The people were listening to Jesus teach in the synagogue. I don't think they liked what Jesus had to say.

? How did they react to what He said? What were they filled with? *Luke 4:28. They were filled with wrath.*

? What does that mean, filled with wrath? *Allow discussion. They were very angry.*

? They were very angry. What did they do to Jesus because of their anger? *Re-read Luke 4:29. They took Him out of the city and to the top of the hill. They wanted to throw Him off the cliff.*

That is a lot of anger. They took Jesus and threatened to throw Him over the cliff! They wanted to kill Him. They did not like what He was teaching, even though Jesus was teaching the truth.

But Jesus was in control. He got away from them and passed through the crowd.

Let's look in the Gospel of John now. This is another time the people got angry at Jesus for what He said. Listen to John 10:30–31. *Read John 10:30–31.*

? What did Jesus say about Himself and God the Father? *John 10:30. He and the Father are one.*

Jesus was telling the people the truth about Himself. He is God! He and God the Father are one.

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

John 10:30–31

- ? How did the people react when they heard this? What did they do? *John 10:31. They picked up stones to kill Him.*

Yes! The Jewish leaders were furious at Jesus. It seemed like no matter what Jesus did they came after Him. This time they called Him a blasphemer because He said He is God. They did not believe what Jesus said about Himself.

Discover the Truth

Let's go to the class notes now and think about what we have just heard from God's Word.

- ? Will someone read #1 on your class notes? What did Jesus tell the people? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #1.*
- ? And what about #2? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Angry. Have students complete #2.*
- ? And #3? Someone read that. What's the answer to this one? *Assign a reader. Kill. Have students complete #3.*

Jesus made some men angry. They didn't like what He taught, or even the miracles He performed. And they especially didn't like to hear Him say He is God. They refused to believe and wanted to kill Him. But God protected Jesus from these men this time. A day would come when Jesus would be killed on the Cross. But that would happen when God wanted it to happen, and not before.



READ THE WORD

We have seen that many men were angry and wanted to kill Jesus. But not *everyone* was angry at Him. We are going to read now about people who were happy to hear what Jesus said.

Jesus had just finished a sermon. He had been teaching the crowd about God and His Word. This is what happened when He finished His message. I'm going to read Matthew 7:28–29. *Read Matthew 7:28–29 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Matthew 7:28–29

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What did the people think of Jesus's teaching? How did they feel about it? *Re-read Matthew 7:28. They were astonished.*
- ? What does astonished mean? *Allow discussion.*

Astonished could mean they were amazed. Or they were surprised at what Jesus said. They thought what He said was great!

These people were excited to hear Jesus. They were surprised that Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about. And they were amazed at His miracles! Jesus was different from the teachers they had heard before. He taught with authority. Jesus is God! The things He said and did proved who He was! And these people believed Him!

Discover the Truth

? Look back at the class notes. Will someone read #4? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Knew. Have students complete #4.*

? And how about #5? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. People. Have students complete #5.*

Yes! Jesus taught with authority—not like the scribes and the other religious teachers of His time. He knew what He was talking about, and some people believed in Him.



READ THE WORD

? So, why should we care how the people reacted to Jesus and what He did and taught? What difference does it make? *Allow discussion.*

The way people respond to Jesus is very important, and we should care very much. Let's see what the Bible tells us about that.

John 3:18

I am going to read John 3:18. This verse shows us why it is very important that we think about who Jesus really is and believe Him! Listen to this. *Read John 3:18.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's take a closer look at that verse.

Observe the Text

? This verse talks about people being condemned. What does that word mean? *Allow discussion.*

When the Bible talks about people being condemned, it means sinners who will be judged by God for their sin. Condemned means punishment that will come to sinners—punishment that ALL sinners deserve.

Now this verse is about someone who IS condemned and someone who is NOT condemned.

? Listen again as I read this verse. What happens to the person who DOES believe in Jesus? *Re-read John 3:18. He is not condemned.*

? And what happens to the person who DOES NOT believe in Jesus? *John 3:18. He is condemned.*

- ? And why is that person condemned, or judged, by God? The answer is at the end of the verse. Listen again. *Re-read John 3:18. He has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

That's right. This verse is very clear. Whoever *believes* in Jesus is not condemned, but will have eternal life. Whoever does *not believe* in Jesus is condemned because he does not believe in the name of Jesus Christ.

- ? What happens to people who have eternal life when they die? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible says people who believe in Jesus have eternal life and will go to heaven with Jesus forever. It is a wonderful promise and hope!

- ? But what happens to people who do NOT have eternal life when they die? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible says that people who are condemned by God will go to hell after they die. They have NOT believed in Jesus Christ, so they will be apart from God in suffering and pain forever because of their sin; because they did not believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Do you see why believing in Jesus is very important? There is one more verse I want to share with you. This is John 3:36. Listen carefully as I read. *Read John 3:36.*

John 3:36

This verse is repeating the same message. But I want you to understand that this is something very important. We can't ignore it. Heaven and hell are real, and only Jesus offers the way to go to heaven.

- ? Think about the verse we just read. What will the person who believes in the Son (Jesus) have? *Re-read John 3:36. Everlasting life.*
- ? And what will happen to the person who does not believe in the Son (Jesus)? *Re-read John 3:36. He will not see life. The wrath of God will be upon him.*

Discover the Truth

What an important message! If we believe in Jesus—if we are astonished at His teaching and His miracles, and if we believe He is who He said He is, we will have eternal life with Him in heaven. But if we do not believe in Him, we will not have life with Him. Instead, God's wrath—His punishment, will be on us forever—for all of eternity in hell.

- ? Let's finish our class notes. Will someone read #6 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #6.*
- ? And what about #7? Who will read it? *Assign a reader. Do not. Have students complete #7.*

This is the gospel. Whoever believes in Jesus—in His birth, His perfect life, His death on the Cross for sinners, and His Resurrection from the dead—will have eternal life. Eternal life is being in heaven with God. It will be a

► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.

time of no more tears, death, sorrow or crying, and no more pain. Everything will be made new! And Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life that will lead all believers there.

Now look at #8 on your class notes. Who will read that one for us? *Assign a reader. Is. Have students complete #8.*



Bible Baseball

MATERIALS

- ☐ Bible Baseball Hits
- ☐ Bible Baseball Questions sheet
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Cup or container for hits

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the students into two teams. Mark three “bases” and “home plate” with masking tape. Mark the “pitcher’s mound” with a chair or masking tape. Have the first team line up at “home plate.” Students on the other team can wait in their seats or along the “sideline.”

Ask the questions from the “pitcher’s mound” using the Bible Baseball Questions sheet. If a player answers correctly, he can pick a “hit” from the cup and advance around the bases. The team will advance for each correct answer. Allow the next team to play after all team members have answered once. Each wrong answer is a strike for the team! Give the correct answer and use the question again for the other team. Three strikes, and you are out—next team’s turn. Repeat the questions if time allows. Keep score of runs and strikes.

Let’s get into teams! We’re going to play Bible Baseball! Here’s how we’ll play. I’m going to ask questions about our lesson. You can look at the posters or your class notes for hints. Each person on a team will take turns answering the questions I ask.

I want Team 1 to line up at “home plate” and I will “pitch” questions to you. If you answer the question correctly, you may pick a “hit” out of this cup and move to the right base. If you don’t know the answer, or give an incorrect answer, that’s a “strike.” Once everyone on your team has had a chance to bat, even if you haven’t struck out, we’ll switch teams. But remember, if your team gets three strikes, you’re out and the other team is up. Ready? Let’s play!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This game was a fun way to review a tough topic. *Congratulate the winning team.*

When Jesus taught, some people were astonished and believed in Him. Others hated Him and wanted to kill Him. People are the same way today. Some reject Jesus and hate Him. Others believe the message He has for us—that He is the only way to the Father. And it is only through believing in Him, repenting of our sins, and trusting Him for forgiveness that we will have eternal life in heaven.





Memory Verse Review (Optional)

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again.

We’re going to practice our memory verse.
Let’s say the verse together as I place these

cards onto the board. *Show each card as you read it, post it on the board, and have the students repeat.*

Good job! But wait! I’m going to ask one of you to come up and take one of the cards down. Then we’ll say the verse without that card! Are you ready? *Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each one.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job! Jesus is the only way to the Father. He promises eternal life to those who believe in Him and know Him as their Savior. Jesus is the truth; we can trust everything He says—we can believe Him! Jesus is the life and He has the power to give us eternal life with Him in heaven.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God shows us in His Word that some of the people were angry when they heard Jesus’s teaching and saw His miracles. They wanted to kill Him. And some of the people were astonished at Jesus’s wisdom and teaching. They believed Him.

How we respond to Jesus is SO important. We read that whoever believes in Him is NOT condemned. That person will go to heaven and have eternal life with God. But whoever does not believe IS condemned. Those who don’t believe in Jesus as their Savior will spend eternity in hell.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Eternal life with Jesus is something we should all want. It means spending eternity with Him in heaven—even after we die! And Jesus offers eternal life to anyone who will admit he is a sinner, is truly sorry to God for his sins, and asks Jesus for forgiveness.

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

Jesus alone can give that forgiveness. Jesus is God's Son. He lived a perfect life, and when He died on the Cross, He took the punishment for sinners who would turn to Him and away from their sins.

I pray that each of you will one day believe that Jesus is the Son of God who lived, died, and rose again so that sinners may have eternal life.



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and its power to save.
- Pray that God will open the eyes of the students to see His truth and be astonished at Jesus Christ.