



Jesus, What a Savior!

Scope & Sequence

Jesus, What a Savior! is a study for children on redemption. Children are sinners, and the consequences for their sin are eternal. This curriculum is designed to present the Gospel, not with “us” at the center of the story, but with the greatness and worth of God at the center. Throughout the lessons, an illustration using colored hearts shows what we were created to do, the effects of sin on our hearts, and the absolute need for Christ to restore our hearts.

Lesson 1: God is the Most Special Person of All

Various Passages

God alone can make us truly happy.

- ▶ There is no better place to begin this study than with the Person of God and His amazing character. Students will see that the Bible is God’s true Word, telling us who God is and what God is like. As they briefly study various attributes of God, they will see that He is perfect in every way. He is the one deserving of all glory and praise...He is the most special Person of all!

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

Lesson 2: God Created the World to Show How Special He Is

Creation (Genesis 1)

Creation is a display of how special God is.

- ▶ Why did God make everything? It wasn’t because He was bored. In this lesson, students will see that God delights in displaying His glory through the wondrous things He has made. As demonstrated in the previous lesson, the Bible tells us how special God is. This lesson helps children understand that creation allows us to see, feel, touch, hear, and smell how special God is.

Memory Verse: Psalm 19:1

Lesson 3: God Created People to Enjoy His Glory

Creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)

God wants people to know, love, and enjoy His glory more than anything else.

- ▶ In Lesson 2, God created things to show how special He is. The same is true with His creation of humans, but there is something different about this creation—God created people in His own image. He did this to show how special He is. This lesson emphasizes that God desires to have an intimate relationship with the people He created, not because He is lonely, but because He is their Creator and their God.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8a; Psalm 9:10

Lesson 4: Adam and Eve Sin and Reject God

The Fall, Part 1 (Genesis 3)

People show how special God is by enjoying God most of all.

- ▶ The previous lesson taught that people were created to not only show how special God is, but to enjoy Him above all else. In this lesson, students will see what happened when Adam and Eve failed to do this. By their actions they told God, “You aren’t as great as You say You are. You can’t satisfy us.” This was sin, and it forever affected their ability to do the very thing for which they were created—to enjoy God most of all.

Memory Verse: Romans 1:21a

Lesson 5: Sin Alienates Adam and Eve from God

The Fall, Part 2 (Genesis 3)

God is perfect and hates sin.

- ▶ In Lesson 4, Scripture told of Adam and Eve's failure to do that for which they were created. This lesson reveals God's response to their sin. Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God, and people cannot be truly happy when separated from God. God told them that sin would lead to death, and children will learn that God is right to punish sin with death.

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23a

Lesson 6: All People Are Born Sinners and Alienated from God

Various Passages

All people are deserving of God's punishment of death (hell).

- ▶ Lesson 5 showed students that Adam and Eve received punishment for their sin. This week's lesson shows students that the actions of Adam and Eve affected all people. Since we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, we are all born sinful and already separated from God. Because of our sinful natures we all deserve God's punishment—death and hell. As students explore various biblical characters, they will see that though all of these people are sinners, God was patient with each of them.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:19a

Lesson 7: God Makes a Way for Sinners to Come to Him

Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)

God is loving and desires to save sinners.

- ▶ Last week, a problem was presented: All people are sinners and therefore separated from God. Not only this, but people are helpless to save themselves. Lesson 7 presents the good news that in His mercy, God made a way to cover the sin of His people. The provision of sacrifices is presented, but the sacrifice itself is not enough. As demonstrated by Cain and Abel, people must come to God by faith.

Memory Verses: Hebrews 9:22b; Hebrews 11:6a

Lesson 8: God Punishes a Sinful World

The Flood (Genesis 6-8)

God is very angry with sin and will punish sinners.

- ▶ As Lesson 6 demonstrated, since Adam and Eve every person is born sinful. This lesson explores how God is grieved by the sin of mankind, but is patient with sinners. This lesson highlights two main components of God's faithfulness revealed in the flood: 1) God is faithful to punish sinners; and 2) God is faithful to those who place their trust in Him. Even though Noah was a sinner, God showed mercy to him because faith in God is pleasing to God.

Memory Verse: Psalm 1:6

Lesson 9: God Makes a Promise to Abraham

Faith of Abraham (Genesis 12, 15, 21, 22)

God desires to make a special people for Himself.

- ▶ The story of Abraham emphasizes justification by faith alone. As the students walk through Abraham's life, they will notice that God chooses Abraham to be His friend. God promises Abraham descendants from all nations, and God grants Abraham the faith to respond in belief to God's promise. Students will see in this lesson that it is through this promise that God is working to bring about a special people for Himself.

Memory Verse: Psalm 86:9

Lesson 10: The Ten Commandments Show Us God's Ways

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

God's laws and commandments are perfect, right, and good.

- ▶ These lessons are designed to teach children that the law was not meant to be used as a job description or as a way to earn favor with God. It was meant to show us the perfect ways of God. The law shows us our inability to measure up to the perfect righteousness that God demands. God expects us to obey His law, but we are incapable of doing so.

Memory Verse: Romans 7:12

Lesson 11: The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin

The Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

Sinful people are not able to obey God's commands.

- ▶ This lesson is the flip-side of the previous lesson. Whereas the emphasis of Lesson 10 was to show that God is righteous and He gave us His law to show us what He demands, Lesson 11 is designed to focus on the inability of the sinner to ever fully obey these commands. God expects that people should obey His commands. The law shows us that, just like the Israelites in the wilderness, we are helpless to attain our own righteousness through the law and must trust God.

Memory Verses: Romans 8:7

Lesson 12: God Promises to Remove the Sin of His People

Life of David (1 and 2 Samuel)

God desires to remove the sin and guilt of His people so they can enjoy Him forever.

- ▶ People are weak and helpless to save themselves. This leaves them weighed down by the guilt of sin. Lesson 12 shows us that God did not leave people there; He made a way so that we can enjoy Him as we were created to do. In this lesson, students will examine David's life. They will see that God gifted David with many great talents and abilities, and yet David was a sinner. David knew that he was a sinner and that all of his talents would not fix his sin problem. Just like David, we are all sinners unable to do what is required of us. But God had a promise for David, and for all of us. He promised to save His people and give them a new heart.

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 36:26a

Lesson 13: Jesus the Savior is Born

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 1-2)

Jesus is the promised Savior.

- ▶ The Christmas story shows the faithfulness of God. In the previous lesson, God had promised to save a people, and give them new hearts. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. The Christmas story is a great example of how God reveals His greatness to and through humble people. Mary was no one special in her time, and no one expected the Savior of the world to come as a tiny baby, but God fulfilled His promise in this way.

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Lesson 14: Jesus is the Most Special Person of All

Jesus Presented in the Temple (Luke 2)

Jesus is fully God and became fully human.

- ▶ Building off what was learned in the very first lesson, students will see that Jesus was not just a baby, He was and is the Word of God in human form. Jesus, the promised Savior, was a baby; just like all of us were, but He was also very different—He was God. This is a hard concept to understand, but nevertheless it is true.

Memory Verses: John 1:1; John 1:14a

Lesson 15: Jesus Understands Sinners

The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)

Jesus was tempted in every way, but He did not sin.

- ▶ Jesus was like the rest of us in many ways. He shared in our humanity, and He is able to sympathize with sinners because He was tempted to sin Himself. Yet, Jesus had one big difference from the rest of us, He did not sin. His heart was not tainted by sin. This is good news for sinners. It means that we have a King who knows what life is like for us, but whose perfect obedience makes Him able to save sinners.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 2:18

Lesson 16: Jesus Proclaims His Good News to Sinners

Jesus and John the Baptist (Luke 3-4)

Jesus was sent by God to save sinners.

- ▶ After Jesus returned from His experience in the wilderness, the Bible says that He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He was now ready to begin the true mission for which He was sent: To be the promised Savior. God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus proclaimed good news to sinners—news about salvation from their sin.

Memory Verse: Luke 4:18a

Lesson 17: Jesus Teaches Sinners

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8)

Jesus gives understanding to simple sinners.

- ▶ Jesus began proclaiming His message of salvation in the previous lesson. His message was good news, but it was not always understood by sinners. In everything that Jesus said and did, He revealed the greatness and worth of God. In His desire to make God known He did not just speak in scholarly terms, but used stories and illustrations that everyone could understand, so that many would respond in faith. In this lesson, He uses *The Parable of the Sower* to explain that Jesus' friends are those who respond in faith and obedience.

Memory Verse: John 8:31b

Lesson 18: Jesus Calls Sinners

Jesus Calls His Disciples (Luke 5)

Jesus doesn't need help from sinners; He chooses sinners to be His friends.

- ▶ As Jesus began His special mission to save sinners, He befriended a group of men to love and disciple. He did not need them because of their gifts and abilities. Rather, they were ordinary men of no worldly significance or impressive ability, but they all shared one common characteristic—they were all sinners. They were chosen not as “helpers” but as a means by which Jesus would display the greatness and worth of God by calling and saving sinners.

Memory Verses: Luke 5:32

Lesson 19: Jesus Heals Sinners

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mark 2)

Jesus has compassion on helpless sinners.

- ▶ Jesus was not just a great moral teacher—He was God and was able to display the power of God. The story of Jesus healing the paralytic shows us this great power to heal, but Jesus knew that the paralytic had a much greater need than being able to walk. This man needed to be saved from his sin and separation from God. This lesson teaches students that Jesus knows our real need—forgiveness from sin—and He has the power to meet that need. It is through trusting in Jesus that our sins are forgiven.

Memory Verse: John 10:10b

Lesson 20: Jesus Spends Time with Sinners

Jesus and Levi (Mark 2)

Jesus is able to save even the worst sinner.

- ▶ Jesus spent time with a wide variety of people during His earthly ministry. Some people (the Pharisees) were not always pleased with those whom Jesus chose as friends. This lesson demonstrates that Jesus called even the most offensive sinners. Children learn that no one is righteous, and people cannot be saved by their own merits.

Memory Verse: Luke 5:31-32

Lesson 21: Jesus Changes Sinners

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man (Mark 5)

Jesus forgives sin and changes a sinner's heart.

- ▶ This lesson begins with the illustration of a caterpillar and butterfly, which demonstrates that sinners don't need a slight tweak to their hearts, but instead need a dramatic transformation. Students will learn that like the demon-possessed man, sinners are held in bondage to the power of sin and are helpless to free themselves. But God is more powerful than Satan. He came to free people from the bondage of sin and is able to transform a sinner's heart.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson 22: Jesus Welcomes All Kinds of Sinners

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4)

Jesus welcomes people from all nations into His family.

- ▶ In the Old Testament, God primarily revealed Himself to Israel, but the Messiah was not just for the people of Israel. The good news of salvation is for all nations. The story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman shows us that God grants faith to Gentiles as well as Jews, but most importantly, it demonstrates that faith in God brings about salvation for a sinner.

Memory Verse: Psalm 67:3

Lesson 23: Jesus Calms Fearful Sinners

Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8)

Every situation is under Jesus' control.

Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14)

- ▶ This lesson uses two biblical examples of Jesus' power to demonstrate that Jesus is God, and nothing is too hard for Him. Jesus understands our weaknesses—He knows we are fearful, and He has compassion on us. Jesus wants sinners to trust Him in all things, including salvation from the righteous judgment of God for our sin.

Memory Verse: John 14:1

Lesson 24: Jesus Satisfies Sinners

Jesus Feeds the 5,000 (John 6)

Jesus is God, and He provides for our physical and spiritual needs.

- ▶ The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 demonstrates the power of Jesus. However, emphasis is placed on the fact that Jesus does more than merely meet our physical needs of hunger (even in miraculous ways), but He is the one who satisfies our spiritual hunger. It is the spiritual need that He came to fulfill.

Memory Verse: John 6:35a

Lesson 25: Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners

Jesus Calls Little Children (Mark 10)

Jesus shows the love of His Father.

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

- ▶ Jesus is happy with childlike faith. All people, children and adults, need Jesus, and we should depend on him for our every need, just like a child. God is a heavenly Father who pours out His

love and goodness on undeserving sinners. He doesn't need anything from us, and therefore He is free to give all things to His children. Jesus wants us to be like children who, joyfully and without question, are totally dependent on Him.

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14b

Lesson 26: Jesus Gives Rest to Weary Sinners

Various Passages

Jesus gives rest to a sinner's heart and soul.

- ▶ As earlier lessons have revealed, the Scriptures show that God desires His perfect law to be loved and obeyed. But sinful hearts are not able to fulfill all of the requirements of the law. This lesson shows that Jesus came to fulfill the law for sinners so that they could be saved. Jesus took the burden on Himself, to complete for sinners what they were unable to do themselves, thereby giving sinners who trust in Him rest for their souls.

Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28

Lesson 27: Jesus Seeks for Lost Sinners

The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep (Luke 15)

Jesus seeks after individual sinners.

- ▶ The parable of the shepherd and lost sheep illustrates that Jesus is like a loving shepherd and people are like lost sheep. Not only does Jesus rescue helpless sinners, but He delights in saving them. It is He who comes seeking after us, not the other way around.

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

Lesson 28: Jesus is Kind to Undeserving Sinners

Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8)

Jesus is kind and merciful to sinners whom He chooses.

- ▶ The story of the woman caught in adultery is used to demonstrate to students that all people are sinners and deserve condemnation. Only Jesus is righteous, and only Jesus has the right to condemn a sinner. This lesson explains that even this woman, who had been caught doing something bad, was able to be saved by the mercy of Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 3:17

Lesson 29: Jesus Brings Joy to Unhappy Sinners

Jesus Raises Lazarus (John 11)

True happiness is found in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry (Luke 19)

- ▶ Through the story of Lazarus' death, students will discover that there is one who conquers death. In this story, Jesus demonstrates that He is the most special of all—He is God—and He holds power over death. Jesus did not just raise Lazarus from the dead, but He came to save His people from eternal death and condemnation in order that they might experience the greatest joy of all—eternal life with Him.

Memory Verse: Psalm 92:4

Lesson 30: Jesus Serves Sinners

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13)

Jesus became a humble servant.

- ▶ Jesus is God, He is all-powerful, and all things belong to Him. Yet in this lesson, students are presented with Jesus who willingly took on the role of a servant, which would eventually cost Him his life. Jesus came to do the hardest job of all—bear the terrible wrath of God for helpless, condemned sinners.

Memory Verse: Matthew 20:28

Lesson 31: Jesus Loves Sinners

The Last Supper (John 13-15)

Jesus freely chooses to love sinners and call them to be His friends.

- ▶ Through the majority of this curriculum, students have been looking at the life of Jesus. But all of His teaching and actions were leading up to one ultimate goal: To display the glory of God in an obedient Son who loves sinners, just as His Father does, and who freely chooses to pour out on them the wonderful gift of His love. Though these sinners are unworthy, Jesus shows sinners the depths of His great love.

Memory Verse: John 15:13

Lesson 32: Jesus is Patient with Sinners

Jesus' Arrest and Betrayal (Mark 14)

Jesus understands the hearts of all people.

- ▶ After the conversation that Jesus had with His disciples during the Last Supper, one would think that the disciples would have been overwhelmed by the words of love and assurance that Jesus had expressed. Yet Jesus made the shocking announcement that they would all fall away. It was shocking to Peter. But Jesus knows the human heart is sinful, weak, afraid, and prone to wander in its affections. Unlike us, Jesus never wanders in His affections. Jesus did not abandon His mission because of His friends' unfaithfulness.

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10

Lesson 33: Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners

The Crucifixion (Matthew 27)

Jesus willingly gave up His life for sinful people.

- ▶ All the lessons have been building to this point: What are the means by which God will make a way of salvation for sinners. This lesson aims to show students that every moment leading to Jesus' death—the trial, the beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds—were all part of God's glorious plan. Jesus said "Yes" to the will of the Father in order to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8

Lesson 34: Jesus Takes Away the Sin of His Friends

Various Passages

Jesus willingly received the wrath and punishment of God on behalf of His sinful friends.

- ▶ This lesson follows up on the story of the crucifixion by taking time to clearly communicate the theology of what happened on Good Friday. Through the review of past lessons and various Scripture passages, this lesson walks children, step-by-step, through the Gospel message.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:24a

Lesson 35: Jesus Gives New Life to His Friends

The Resurrection (Matthew 27-28)

Jesus gives eternal life to all who trust in Him.

- ▶ The last two lessons taught students that Jesus paid the full penalty for sin, but the story does not end with Jesus' death. God's wrath was satisfied and Jesus is all-powerful even over sin and death. Jesus rose from the dead as proof of His victory and makes His friends right with God. Jesus' resurrection is the proof that Jesus had truly finished the job He had come to do.

Memory Verse: John 11:25

Lesson 36: Jesus' Promise for His Friends—Joy Forever!

Heaven Described (Revelation 21-22)

Heaven is a real place where Jesus' friends will enjoy Him forever.

- ▶ This lesson is designed to aim children's focus on the wonderful promise that Jesus has prepared eternal joy in Heaven for His friends who love and trust Him. The lesson describes many of the wonderful things that believers can look forward to in Heaven, including beauty, happiness, and peace. But the best part of heaven is being with the most special Person of all—our friend Jesus!

Memory Verse: John 14:2

Lesson 37: Jesus' Friends Love Him Most of All

The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19)

People who believe in Jesus love Him most of all.

- ▶ So far in the study, students have learned that people who believe in Jesus know that they are helpless sinners, and that only Jesus can help them. This lesson teaches children that Jesus' friends also love God above all else. Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. The aim of this lesson is to help students understand that true belief will result in loving Jesus more than anything or anyone else, and having Him alone as our priceless treasure.

Memory Verse: Mark 12:30

Lesson 38: Jesus' Friends Obey Him

Various Passages

Jesus gives His friends the Holy Spirit to help them obey God's commands.

- ▶ As was discussed earlier in the curriculum, God's commands are holy, righteous, and good. God is deserving of our obedience, but we cannot be perfect law keepers. This lesson discusses the new commandments Jesus gave His friends—to love God most and to love others as themselves. Students will learn that obedience to Christ is not optional. True faith in Jesus will be evidenced by true obedience to Jesus, and it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to succeed in this.

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25

Lesson 39: Only Jesus!

The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7)

Salvation is found in no other name than Jesus.

- ▶ The story of the wise and foolish builders encourages children to set their hope on the firm rock of Christ alone. People are tempted to place their hope in good works (e.g., being good, being kind, etc.), but these things will fail in times of trouble. Just as the foolish man's house collapsed in the storm, so will a faith built on works.

Memory Verse: John 14:6

Lesson 40: Jesus Invites You to Receive Him

The Great Banquet (Luke 14)

All people must respond to Jesus—either in belief or unbelief.

- ▶ The final lesson asks children to place their faith in the truth they've heard over the course of the curriculum. It emphasizes that receiving Jesus means not only receiving His saving grace, but also His daily lordship over their lives. True belief puts Jesus at the center of all things. Not all people will trust Jesus, but all will be held accountable for their unbelief.

Memory Verse: John 1:12