

God & Man Lesson 12 – The Early Ministry of Jesus



INTRODUCTION:

Jesus started His public ministry when He was 30 years old. We don't know much about His life before that time. There are 4 books of the Bible that focus on the life of Jesus. They are called, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These 4 books are also known as the "gospels" or "good news." The good news is that God became man in the person of Jesus, walked among us, performed amazing miracles, was a marvelous teacher, became the sacrifice for our sins, yet rose from the dead! We can have hope of eternal life through Jesus.

This lesson takes a small sample from each of the four gospels. This helps us get a flavour of the early days of His ministry among us.

Read [John 2:1-11](#) Turning Water into Wine

- 1 Where did Jesus go and what kind of celebration was happening? What problem did the host have? How would you feel if you were the host? (verses 1-3)
- 2 What did Jesus tell the servants to do? What happened to the water? (verses 4-10)
- 3 What did the disciples think about Jesus? Why do you think Jesus did this "miraculous sign?" Can you think of a symbolic reason?

Read [Mark 1:16-20](#) The Calling of the First Disciples

- 4 Who did Jesus see as He was walking along the shore? What did Jesus say to them?
- 5 What was their response? Who else followed Jesus in verse 19 and 20?
- 6 If Jesus called you to follow Him, how would you respond? How much do you think you need to know about Jesus before you can follow Him? What do you think Jesus might want you to do if you followed Him?

Read [Luke 4:16-21](#) The Teaching in the Synagogue

- 7 Where was Jesus and what did He do there?
- 8 Which scroll or book from the Old Testament did Jesus read from? Jesus says the "Spirit of the Lord is upon me" then lists 4 things it is prophesied that He will do. What are those 4 things? How do we know that Jesus is talking about Himself? Is there a clue?
- 9 From what you know about Jesus so far, did He do any of these things?

Read [Matthew 5:1-12](#) The Sermon on the Mount

- 10 Where did Jesus teach? What different kinds of people did Jesus talk about? Why do you think this teaching is called the "Sermon on the Mount"?

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- 11 Why do you think that God blesses these kinds of people? Does it surprise you? What kinds of people seem to be missing from this list? Why do you think that is?
- 12 Can you relate to or identify with any of these people? Which one do you feel most like?
- 13 Do you think that God has blessed you? How do you feel blessed?

Discussion:

Jesus had a very active ministry during His life. Mostly we see Him healing people miraculously; preaching privately and to crowds; and spending time with His family, followers, friends and those who were seen as the outcasts of society.

Who do you think Jesus was? What have you learned about Jesus up to now? Do you think you would have wanted to spend time with Him? How can we spend time with Him now?

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The four gospels are Matthew, Mark, John and James.
2. Jesus turned water into wine.
3. Jesus called some men to be His disciples.
4. Jesus taught a large group of people in a church.
5. Jesus taught a large group of people on a mountainside.