

## **2. JESUS IS YOUR ELDER BROTHER**

### **COMMENTS ON THE LESSON**

The purpose of this lesson is to point out that Jesus is loved and respected by many people. He is loved and respected because of His many virtues. He is like a loving, elder brother who cares for His relatives. It is to Him, therefore, that we turn for guidance and help.

### **EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON**

**THE DEVIL:** the same as Satan. He is the spiritual being, who invented evil. He is a liar and a murderer and he tempts people to commit sin.

**HEBREWS:** a book of the New Testament that was written primarily for Jewish Christians.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST:** a forerunner of Jesus. He prepared the way for Jesus by telling people to change their way of living and to be baptized in water.

**JORDAN RIVER:** a river in Palestine, which flows from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.

**LAW of Moses:** the law, which God gave to the Jews by their great leader, Moses. The Law of Moses is found in the Old Testament.

**LUKE:** a believer in Jesus, who was a traveling companion

of the apostle Paul. Luke wrote two of the books of the New Testament: the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

**MARK:** the believer in Jesus, who wrote the Gospel of Mark, which is the story of Jesus' deeds.

**MATTHEW:** the apostle of Jesus that wrote the Gospel of Matthew, which shows how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

**SATAN:** the proper name of the devil.

## JESUS IS YOUR OLDER BROTHER

People have been drawn to Jesus because of His great love for them. While He was on earth, Jesus expressed His love for many people. For example, Jesus had high regards for a young man that came asking what to do in order to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:21). Jesus was deeply attached to a man named Lazarus (John 11:36) and to Lazarus' two sisters, Mary and Martha. In addition, Jesus dearly loved His own disciples (John 13:1), as well as many other people, both men and women.

One of the reasons why Jesus was able to love so widely and so well was because He knew that His Father (God) loved Him (John 15:9).

## JESUS' PERSONALITY

Jesus was a joyful person and He lived a beautiful life. He did not play tricks on people. He never deceived anyone, nor did He ever entice anyone to do evil. His life was completely holy. He loved God with all of His heart and He was dedicated to Him.

When Jesus was only twelve years old, He said to His parents, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business" (Luke 2:49)?

Jesus was always interested in doing what God wanted Him to do. Jesus said,

"I do not seek my own will  
but the will of the Father  
who sent me."

## John 5:30

Jesus also had complete trust in God. He relied upon God for everything. There is no record that He asked people for food or that He begged for money. Yet, God supplied all of His needs.

### WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

If Jesus was so holy, why was He baptized? When Jesus was about thirty years old, He went out to the Jordan River, where John the Baptist was immersing (baptizing) people. Jesus did not need to be baptized to wash away sins, because He had no sins (Hebrews 4:15). In spite of His having no sins, He asked John the Baptist to immerse (baptize) Him, but John did not want to baptize Him. John said, “I have need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me”(Matthew 3:14)? But Jesus said,

“Permit it to be so for now,  
for thus it is fitting for us  
to fulfill all righteousness.”

Matthew 3:15

Jesus was saying, in effect, that if being baptized was the right thing to do, He wanted to do it. It is well for us that Jesus was baptized, because otherwise we might say, “Jesus wasn’t baptized, so we don’t need to be baptized either.”

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, after His having been baptized by John the Baptist, the heavens were

opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus as a dove. A voice from heaven said,

“This is My beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17

## JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL

Immediately following His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness to be tempted. There, Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. When He was nearly at the point of death from starvation, the devil came and tempted Jesus to use miraculous power for Himself. The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread” (Matthew 4:3). But Jesus replied,

“It is written,  
‘Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds  
from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

Following that, the devil took Jesus up to a high part of the temple in Jerusalem and said, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written, ‘He shall give his angels charge concerning you,’ and, ‘in their hands they shall bear you up’” (Matthew 4:6). This time, the devil quoted from the Old Testament, just as Jesus had done. Again, Jesus rejected the temptation by also quoting from the Old Testament. He said,

“It is written again,  
‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”  
Matthew 4:7

Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and offered to give Him all the riches and the power of the world, if He would fall down and worship him, but Jesus said,

“Away with you, Satan!  
For it is written,  
‘You shall worship the Lord your God,  
and Him only shall you serve.’”  
Matthew 4:10

In none of these temptations did Jesus commit sin. Notice that He rejected each temptation by quoting from the Scriptures. This shows that knowledge of the Bible can help in times of temptation.

## JESUS BEGAN HIS TEACHING MINISTRY

After Jesus was tempted by the devil, He began teaching and preaching in the region of Galilee (Matthew 4:13-16). Jesus told the people, just as John the Baptist had done before Him, that they should repent (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus' message was unique in that He placed strong emphasis on love. Other teachers, prior to Jesus, had taught about love, but no one had emphasized it as strongly

as He did. Jesus taught that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with our entire mind. This, said Jesus, is the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:37-38). The second commandment is similar to the first. Jesus said that we should love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). In addition, Jesus taught that we should even love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

## JESUS AS A TEACHER

The Bible says that when Jesus finished His “Sermon on the Mount,” people were astonished at His teaching. They were astonished because He taught them with authority, not as the scholars of the Law of Moses did (Matthew 7:28-29).

Later, when officers were sent to arrest Jesus, the officers returned empty handed. When asked why they had not brought Jesus, they replied, “No man ever spoke like this man” (John 7:46).

## MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED IN JESUS BECAUSE OF HIS MIRACLES

Jesus healed many people. Indeed, He healed all that were brought to Him (Matthew 4:24). One of the reasons why He healed people was because He had compassion on them (Matthew 9:36). Another reason was that He wanted to establish His identity as the Son of God (John 5:36).

Jesus’ healing of people was not His only miraculous activity. He fed 5,000 men at one time, plus women and children. He fed them with only a few loaves of bread and

a few fish (Matthew 14:15-21). He also caused a mighty storm on the Sea of Galilee to stop (Luke 8:22-25). He walked on water (Matthew 14:22-27), and He even raised the dead (John 11:1-44). His miracles were evidence that He had come from God (John 9:31-33). As a result of His miracles, His fame spread, and many people followed Him (Matthew 4:24-25). Although Jesus performed miracles, He was far more than a miracle worker.

## JESUS' AUTHORITY

When Jesus was on a mountain with three of His disciples (Peter, James, and John), God repeated what He had said at Jesus' baptism, namely:

“This is My beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased.  
Hear Him!”

Matthew 17:5

Still today, God wants us to listen to what Jesus had to say.

## YOUR ADOPTION INTO GOD'S FAMILY

It is God's plan for you to be adopted into His family (Ephesians 1:5). Once you are adopted, Jesus will not be ashamed to own you as His brother, for you will be a child of the same Father as He (Hebrews 2:11).

The way for you to be adopted into God's family is for you to repent of your sins (Acts 2:38), believe in Jesus



Christ (Galatians 3:26), and be immersed (baptized) into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). When you are immersed into Christ, you are also raised to walk a new life with Christ (Romans 6:4). Jesus becomes your loving, elder brother.

## WHAT KIND OF A BROTHER IS JESUS?

Jesus is a brother who is concerned about you and who guides you into the right path. He guides you by His example and by His teaching, which you find in the Bible.

Jesus invites all people to come to Him and to learn from Him (Matthew 11:28-29). So, please, respond to Jesus' loving invitation. Jesus promised that His yoke would be easy for you and His burden light (Matthew 11:30). He warned, however, that if any person hears His teaching and does not respond to it, He (Jesus) would not be the one to judge that person on the last day. The words that Jesus spoke will judge that person (John 12:47-48). The reason why the word will judge a person is because Jesus spoke what His Father (God) commanded Him to speak (John 12:49). So, please, heed what your elder brother has to say to you.

## WORKSHEETS

After you have read Lesson Number Two and have looked up and read all the Bible references, please read the following statements. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not each statement is true. If you decide that a statement is true, please write “T” before it. If you find a statement is false, please write “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus loved His disciples very much.
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus was not a happy person.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus was baptized for the sins He committed.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus resisted all of the temptations of the devil.
- \_\_\_ 5. It is not necessary for us to love our neighbors today.
- \_\_\_ 6. It is not necessary for us to listen to what Jesus said.
- \_\_\_ 7. God wants us to be in His family.
- \_\_\_ 8. Jesus is our younger brother.
- \_\_\_ 9. The way we get into Christ is by repenting, by believing in Him, and by being baptized into Him.
- \_\_\_ 10. The words that Jesus spoke will judge us.

Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and write the missing words in the blanks.

John 9:31

“Now we know that God \_\_\_\_\_ sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and \_\_\_\_\_, He hears him.”

Galatians 3:26-27

“For you are all sons of God through \_\_\_\_\_. For as many of you as were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ have \_\_\_\_\_.”

Hebrews 2:11-12

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all \_\_\_\_\_, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them \_\_\_\_\_, saying, ‘I will declare Your name to My \_\_\_\_\_.’”

John 12:46

“I have come as \_\_\_\_\_ into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not \_\_\_\_\_.”

Please, answer the following questions by writing a short paragraph about each question.

1. Is there now, or has there ever been, a religious teacher that has taught a higher concept of love than Jesus? Please explain.
2. Is Jesus worthy of your respect and obedience? If so, tell why.