

"That You May Believe"

Gospel of John

Week 10

Main Idea – God has no equal. Jesus is equal with God.

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children understand that God has no equal. There is no one in the universe like God — He is different from the creation in every way. After the Fall of humans into sin, their sinful hearts caused them to dishonor God by going after false gods. But God faithfully revealed to His people through His Word that there is no one like God. This week's lesson culminates in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who claimed to be equal with God. When Jesus claimed to be equal with God, He was claiming to be God! Even though Jesus performed signs to show the people that He was God, the majority of people refused to believe Him.

Sunday School — Isaiah 46

Preparation

Materials:

- Which is greatest?
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize the main point
- Isaiah 46 bookmark for coloring.

Set-up:

- Print or display on the TV “which is greatest?” images.

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “It Is By Grace” (Pop Scripture Songs, NIV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – **God** has no **equal**.

Pray

Introduction (5 minutes)

Today, we are going to open with a game — Which one is the greatest? In this game, I will ask you a question, and you will attempt to guess which person or place in that category is the greatest! NOTE — Ask the question before displaying the picture.

Example — Greatest NBA Player? Michael Jordan. Most people agree that Michael Jordan is the greatest player to ever play in the NBA. Why? He won 6 NBA championships, was MVP all six times, was on multiple all-star teams, won scoring titles and regular season mvps.

#1 — Highest mountain (In elevation above sea level. Other mountains are considered to be ‘taller’ because their base starts far below sea level)? Mount Everest! At 29,029 ft, Mount Everest is the highest mountain on earth!

#2 — Longest river? The Nile! The Nile river is 4,159 miles long! It is over a hundred miles longer than the second longest river in the world, the Amazon river.

#3 — Deepest canyon? Yarlung Tsangpo Canyon (Tibet/China). While the Grand Canyon is large, is isn’t as deep as this canyon. It’s deepest parts are over 19,000 ft. deep!

#4 — Lowest point on earth (below sea level)? The dead sea is considered the lowest point on earth. It stands at 1,414 feet below sea level!

#5 — Coldest place on earth? Eastern Antarctic Plateau, Antarctica. Temperatures here can reach as low as -137 degrees Fahrenheit! Hardly anything can survive in that weather.

What do all of these things have in common? In the category given, they have no equal! No mountain is as high as Mt. Everest, No river as long as the Nile, etc. As a result, they stand in a category all by themselves!

This brings us to the point of our lesson today.

Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — God has no equal. When we say that God has no equal, it is because He is different from every created thing. He has all the power, all the wisdom, everything! Today, we are going to look at a time when God reminded Israel that He has no equal, and that no one compares to Him!

The question — Read Isaiah 46:5 — God begins with a question to Israel. **What does He ask?** “To whom will you compare me? who is my equal?” **Why does God have to ask this question?** He has to ask the question because the people were comparing false gods to God! That is a terrible sin! But God is patient with Israel and gives them His Word so that they can think rightly about Him. In this passage, God will show us two ways that He has no equal.

First, God has no equal when it comes to providing care for His people — Read Isaiah 46:1-2 — How are false gods at caring for people people? They are terrible, they can't do it! When enemies come, false gods cannot protect their people! Not only can false gods not care for their people in the face of an enemy, but people can't even care for their false gods in the face of an enemy! When an enemy comes and conquers them, they are all taken hostage — people and false gods alike!

God on the other hand, is a true care giver of His people — Read Isaiah 46:3-4 — According to those verses, how has God cared for Israel?

- He cared for them before they were born! — Before Israel became a nation, God was preparing the world for them.
- He cared for them after they were born! — After Israel became a nation, God cared for them by providing for them and protecting them from their enemies.
- He will always care for them! — He promises that He will care for them throughout their lifetime. God's people will always be cared for.

Second, God has no equal when it comes to planning for His people. — Read Isaiah 46:10-11 — What do we learn about God in this passage? He is in charge of the world! He makes plans, and has the power to make sure they happen. That is not true about false gods — Read Isaiah 46:6-7 — False gods can't plan for people because they're not real!

Today we've learned that God has no equal. How do we know that God has no equal from this passage? No one can care for or plan for their people like God. He stands alone!

But God doesn't just tell us that He has no equal so that we can know it with our minds — He wants us to obey Him from our hearts!

Our responsibility is to worship the God who has no equal. There are two ways that we do this.

First, we must remember that God has no equal — Read Isaiah 46:9.

Second, we must remember to always listen to God and do what He says. This is why God was so frustrated with Israel — Read Isaiah 46:12.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Main Point — God has no equal. All of Israel's history pointed to the reality that the God of Israel — the One True God — has no equal! But God was going to do something even greater to display that He has no equal!

Read Isaiah 46:13 — God planned to show His glory to Israel and save His people! The fullness of that glory was seen when the Word of God stepped into the world He created! As it is written in John — “So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son!

Today, if you want worship God as the one who has no equal, you must do it by worshipping His only Son — the glory of the Lord sent to die for sinners so that they may be saved from sin. Don't be stubborn like Israel — come to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation!

Pray

Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)

Children's Church — John 5:1-18

Preparation

Materials:

- Equality Matching Game
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize the main point
- Jesus heals paralyzed man coloring page

Set-up:

- Print out matching game and cut so that they can be placed on the wall or table.

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “It Is By Grace” (Pop Scripture Songs, NIV) at least once.

NOTE — Starting with the Bible verse in Children's Church will help the children get some movement in before the lesson starts.

Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – Jesus is **equal** with **God**.

Pray

Introduction (5 minutes)

This morning in Sunday school, we learned that God has no equal. In Isaiah 46, no one can care for His people or plan for His people like God can. He is unique, there is no one like Him. If you want to be successful, if you want to please God, you must remember that that there is no one like Him and that you must listen to what He says!

Now, before we get to our main lesson, we'll start with a matching game. In this game, you must match the cards with the same value. Start with all the equations on the board and have students come up one by one to attempt to make a match. Once all of the numbers are correctly matched (the equations add up to the numbers 1-10), you can ask the following questions.

What do all of these pairs have in common? They are all equal. When you add up both equations, you get the same number.

Is it possible for math equations to be equal and to not look the same? Yes! As long as they have the same number (same essence), they are equal, even though they look different. Depending upon how much you know, it might be really hard to see two different looking equations as equal, but they are.

Today, we are going to resume our study in the book of John to learn more about Jesus.

Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — Jesus is equal with God. That would have been a very difficult concept for the Jews to understand. The Old Testament said that God is spirit, and that He doesn't have a body. And yet here Jesus is — a man with real human flesh, living among other men, claiming to be God Himself! So even though Jesus and God are equal, the Jews had a hard time seeing it clearly — almost like two math equations that look different but both have the same value. (Disclaimer — this isn't as much an analogy about the Trinity, which all devolve into heresy, but an illustration to communicate the concept that something can look different and yet be the same).

The good news is that Jesus, in His grace, was doing mighty works and signs to prove His claims to be God. Those who were truly listening to Jesus' claims, and beholding His miracles, would be able to see by faith that Jesus was not only equal with God, but actually God! In this passage, Jesus continues to give the world more information so that they can understand that He is equal with God.

The cure — Read John 5:1-9a (don't read the part about the Sabbath yet)

When you hear this story, Jesus does something incredible: He heals a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years! Nothing could help this man except the power of God. And when Jesus instantly healed the man of his condition, the Jews noticed! By healing this man, Jesus was providing more proof that He was who He claimed to be. And the right response to Jesus' healing should have been to believe that He was equal with God, and God Himself!

But unfortunately, some of the Jews noticed Jesus' healing for the wrong reasons — Read John 5:9b-10

How did the Jews respond to Jesus' healing? They saw it as a violation of God's Law!

The Law of Moses required that men and women rest on the Sabbath, just as God rested after He created the world. Over time, the religious leaders added man-made traditions to the Law of Moses that made it almost impossible to honor God on the Sabbath.

The clash — This caused a major clash between the religious leaders and Jesus, because He healed on the Sabbath and instructed the man to break their Sabbath rules. Read John 5:16-17

How did Jesus respond to the Jewish leaders? He told them that His Father was always working, and that He too was working! This is a direct claim to be God. This means that the miracle He performed on the Sabbath was meant to show the world that He was not only equal with God, but that He was God in the flesh! Because even though God had rested on the Sabbath after creation, He never stopped being the source of life and the glue that holds the universe together. After creation,

the Father was always working, even on the Sabbath. And if the Father can work on the Sabbath, the Son can work on the Sabbath.

How do you think the Jewish leaders would respond to Jesus' answer? Not well! Read John 5:18

They didn't deny that God the Father was always working, but they did deny that Jesus was equal with God. And for that, they sought to kill Jesus.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Jesus is equal with God. We see it primarily in the words the Jesus says — "My Father is working, and so am I!" And we see the proof that His claim to be God is true through His miracles — like the powerful healing of a paralyzed man. Jesus came as God to reveal the Father to mankind. If you want to honor God the Father, you must come to His Son. Jesus is equally deserving of worship as God the Father is. So believe Jesus — the One with the power to save you from sin and death.

Pray

Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)