

LESSON 5 Jesus, the Word

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were unable to speak? Can you imagine if you had no way of communicating with others? What terrible isolation and frustration!

Most of us can communicate easily with others. Usually, we hardly notice what we are doing! But in fact, every day we use hundreds of words to express our inner feelings, desires, thoughts, and purposes. They give form to what is in our hearts and minds. Through them, others can know us and we can know them.

Our ability to communicate comes from the God who made us. He is the great Communicator, and He wants us to know Him. We do not need to wonder what God is like. He has spoken! How? By sending His own Son into the world. Prophets and wise men have said words about God and from God, and their words have been true. But Jesus Christ has done far more. He has not just spoken God's words. He is God's Word—living, powerful, and full of divine authority. Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of everything God wants us to know.

As the Word, what does Jesus tell us about God? The answer to that question is the subject of this lesson.

The Plan

- A. God Revealed Himself in Jesus
- B. God Explained His Names in Jesus

The Goals

1. Identify what God showed us about His character, feelings, thoughts, plans, power, and will through Jesus Christ.
2. Explain how Jesus fulfills the names of God.

A. GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN JESUS

Goal 1. Identify what God showed us about His character, feelings, thoughts, plans, power, and will through Jesus Christ.

God is a spirit. We cannot see Him, hear Him, or feel Him with our natural senses. How, then, can we know Him? How can weak, sinful people understand the all-powerful, perfect, invisible God? How can God show himself to us? Jesus is the answer.

God's Character

Jesus reveals God to us through a human personality. What is God like? We can know by looking at Jesus, His Son.

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1:18)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

God has spoken to people in many ways, but the clearest revelation of His character is His Son—God's living Word. God speaks to us today as we read about Jesus. Jesus' life, work,

and teachings all express God in terms of human experience, in language we can understand.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, . . . The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. (Hebrews 1:1–3)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. (John 1:1, 14)

Jesus not only taught people about God; He demonstrated God's character. He spoke of God's holiness, goodness, wisdom, justice, mercy, power, and love. People saw these qualities in Him. He proclaimed the highest moral standard the world has ever known, and He lived by it. The wisdom of His teachings still amazes the world. He was God's love in action as He ministered to human needs and gave His life for others.

On the cross, where Jesus died for our sins, we see the clearest expression of God's justice and love. God's justice demanded the death penalty for sin. God's love for sinners made Him suffer death in the sinners' place. His love made Him pray for forgiveness for those who were crucifying Him. What love! What a wonderful God we have!

Application

- 1** The justice and love of God were shown to us most clearly when Jesus
 - a)** died on the cross.
 - b)** healed the sick.
 - c)** taught the people.

2 Fill in the blanks by writing the correct phrases from Hebrews 1:1–3.

God spoke in the past to and through In these last days, He has spoken toby



God's Feelings, Thoughts, and Plans

Jesus expressed God's feelings, thoughts, and plans in His teachings and His person. Jesus was a great Teacher, yet He said:

“I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.” (John 8:28)

“Everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

We can depend, then, on Jesus' teachings in the gospels as a true revelation of God and His truth. We see God as an all-wise, loving Father in heaven who cares tenderly for His children. He hates sin and hypocrisy, but He loves the sinner. He tells us how to be saved and gives us the rules for a happy life. He longs for His wandering children to leave their sins and come back home to Him. He lets us know about the wonderful life He has planned for us in His eternal kingdom. We have these truths in God's written Word.

Jesus, the living Word, revealed God's feelings. In Him, God wept over the grief of His friends, the suffering of humanity, and the blind unbelief of a city that rejected Him and was rushing to destruction. God's anger blazed against pretense and against those who made profits from religion. God's pity was stirred as He saw people lost in sin like sheep without a shepherd. God let people know He wanted them to be happy and free from sickness, sin, guilt, and fears.

Application

3 When Jesus wept over the suffering of humanity, we see a clear revelation of God's

- a) feelings.
- b) thoughts.
- c) plans.

4 Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a) Everything that Jesus taught came from His Father.
 - b) The life of Jesus showed that God never becomes angry.
 - c) Through the teachings of Jesus, we can learn about the plans God has for us.
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God's Power and Will

Jesus showed us that God not only wants to help us, but also that God has the power to help us. While He was on earth, Jesus healed the sick and forgave the sinner. He met the needs of people, whatever they were, by the power of God. He said that He had come to do His Father's will, and He pointed to His actions as proof that God had sent Him. The miracles Jesus did showed that God is both willing and able to help us. They prove that God wants to heal us, forgive us, and meet all our needs today.


“The very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.” (John 5:36)

But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)

Jesus also showed us the kind of life God wants us to have. He obeyed His Father and lived in close fellowship with Him. God wants us to do the same.

Application

5 Suppose someone were to say to you: “I believe in God, but I think He is too far away to care about my problems.” How would you respond?



B. GOD EXPLAINED HIS NAMES IN JESUS

Goal 2. Explain how Jesus fulfills the names of God.

We find many names for God in the Bible. Jesus, the Word, helps us understand them because He is the true expression of God.

I Am

When God called Moses to lead His people, Moses asked His name. God answered, “I Am Who I Am” (Exodus 3:14). He told Moses to tell the people that I Am had sent him. This name tells us that God is eternal, changeless, and always present. There is no deceit in Him. He is what He is and does what He purposes to do. We can depend on Him.

But what is it that God is? What will He do? Jesus answers these questions in His sermons recorded in the Gospel of John. Eight times He applies God’s name, I Am, to himself. Once He uses it to describe His own eternal nature, telling us that He existed before Abraham. The other times, Jesus uses the name of God to explain God’s character and His own—to show what God does for those who come to Him. The great I Am will meet all of our needs.

1. “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).
2. “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).
3. “Before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58).
4. “I am the gate” (John 10:9).
5. “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).
6. “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25).
7. “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6).
8. “I am the true vine” (John 15:1).

Application

6 You have studied eight verses in which Jesus uses the name I Am to explain God’s character and His own. Beside each kind of spiritual need, write the reference and phrase that tells how Jesus meets it as the I Am. (More than one verse may fit a need.) The first one is done to give you an example.

- a) Barren; unproductive . . . *John 15:1, Jesus is the vine.* . . .
- b) Dead or dying
- c) Deceived
- d) Hungry
- e) In danger
- f) In darkness
- g) Separated from God

7 Something to think about. Review the list you made for exercise 6. Mark an X beside each need you have that you want Jesus to meet as the I Am.



Jehovah

“Jehovah” is the way the name I Am is often said in our language. You will also hear it said as “Yahweh,” which uses a different set of letters to substitute for the Hebrew. Whether Jehovah or Yahweh, it is the same name represented into English. As you have learned, it means the Eternal or Self-Existent One. It is linked in the Old Testament with other words to form several compound names. These are all based on personal revelations of God and tell us who He is and what He does for people. Jesus—the Word who reveals God to us—demonstrates the truth of these names of God.

1. Jehovah-jireh—The Lord Our Provider

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”
(Genesis 22:8)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:18–20)

Jesus is the lamb God has provided to take our guilt and die in our place.

2. Jehovah-rophe—The Lord Our Healer

“I am the LORD, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. (Matthew 8:16)

Jesus, the Great Physician, heals the body, mind, heart, and broken spirit.

3. Jehovah-shalom—The Lord Our Peace

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. (Judges 6:24)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14:27)

Jesus gives us inner peace that does not depend on circumstances—peace with God, peace with ourselves, and peace with others.

4. Jehovah-rohi—The Lord My Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (Psalm 23:1)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

Jesus—the Good Shepherd—died to save us and lives now to take care of all who follow Him.

5. Jehovah-tsidkenu—The Lord Our Righteousness

This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6)

God made him [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

There is only one way to have a clean heart and life. We can have the right kind of life and right relationship with God only by union with Jesus. He is our righteousness.

6. Jehovah-shammah—The Lord Is Present

“And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.” (Ezekiel 48:35)

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

Jesus has promised to be with us always. He is always near to help us.

7. Jehovah-nissi—The Lord Our Banner

Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. (Exodus 17:15)

“I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

This title means that Jesus is our Leader, our Victory, and our Strength. With Him we can be strong and victorious in the daily battle of life.

What do these names mean to you? They mean that if you have Jesus as your Savior, the Lord will provide for you. The Lord will heal you. The Lord will be your Peace. The Lord will be your Righteousness. The LORD will be present with you and be your Victory. Jesus will be all this to you, if you submit your life to Him, confessing your sins and accepting Him into your life.

Application

8 Following is a list of the names of God from the Old Testament which are explained more fully in Jesus. Beside each, write a need that God can fulfill for you or someone in your family.

- a)** The Lord Our Provider
- b)** The Lord Our Healer
- c)** The Lord Our Peace
- d)** The Lord My Shepherd
- e)** The Lord Our Righteousness
- f)** The Lord Is Present
- g)** The Lord Our Banner



Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT ONE. Review the previous lessons, paying special attention to the verses you have memorized. (These are 1 John 1:3 and Hebrews 13:8 from Lesson 1; and John 3:16, Matthew 3:17, and John 14:6 from Lesson 3.) Follow the instructions in your student report for filling out the answer sheet. Send your answer sheet to the address stamped on the copyright page of the student report.

Check Your Answers

- 4 a** True
- b** False
- c** True

1 a) died on the cross.

5 Your answer: You could describe the miracles Jesus did for people and explain how they show us that God is both willing and able to help us.

2 to: our forefathers
through: the prophets
to: us
through: His Son

6 Your answers may not be exactly like these, but they should be similar.

- a** John 15:1, Jesus is the Vine.
- b** John 11:25 and 14:6, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.
- c** John 14:6, Jesus is the Truth.
- d** John 6:35, Jesus is the Bread of Life.
- e** John 10:11, Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- f** John 8:12, Jesus is the Light of the world.
- g** John 10:9, Jesus is the Gate; John 14:6, Jesus is the Way.

3 a) feelings.

