**Study Series: More Than a Carpenter**

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**Lesson Title: “Will the Real Messiah Please Stand Up?” (pp. 83-93)**

April 18, 2021 Session 07

The main point of this lesson is: Claims that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior rest on His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Focus on this goal: To help adults confess Jesus as the unique and only way to salvation with the Father.

Key Bible Passage: Luke 24:27,44

Before the Session

**Write** on a large writing surface: I am so much more than a …. (Step 1)

During the Session

**Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion**

**Draw attention** to the statement on the board.

Lead a discussion by **asking**: How would you like to complete that statement to your: Family? Doctors? Work colleagues?

**Consider** why the author chose to title this study More Than a Carpenter.

**Request adults** draw on what they’ve discovered in the past weeks of study and state how Jesus is so much more than a carpenter, prophet, or good teacher.

**Assert** Jesus came as God incarnate to fulfill a plan that was prophesied centuries before He arrived.

**Read** the main point of this lesson statement (p. 94).

**Step 2. Day One – Looking to Prophecy**

**Invite volunteers to consult** their Bible apps and **read** Galatians 4:4 in several translations and paraphrases.

**Ask:** How does the phrase “When the time came to completion, God sent his Son” (CSB) indicate that Jesus’ incarnation was not God’s afterthought or last-ditch attempt to save the world?

**Declare** Jesus came to earth when it was just the right time for the Old Testament prophecies and promises to be fulfilled.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 1 (pp. 83-84).

**Explain** the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms are the three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible. Jesus was saying the entire Old Testament is about Him.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (p. 84).

**Declare:** We know more about the gospel than Moses and Isaiah! It is our responsibility to also search and inquire carefully, which is what we’re doing with this study, and to serve others with this gospel.

**Step 3. Day Two – An Address in History**

**Guide the group** **to analyze** why the author calls the Old Testament predictions of Jesus His “address” (end of Day One, p. 84, and beginning of Day Two, p. 85).

**Request** **adults identify** the first messianic prophecy in the Bible.

**Evaluate** why only Jesus could fulfill that prophecy.

**Note** that the phrase “born of a woman” from Galatians 4:4 is a New Testament fulfillment of this prophecy.

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (p. 85).

**Invite a volunteer to read** the Day Two margin/pull quote (p. 86).

**Encourage adults** to identify additional prophecies made about the Messiah (Day Two, p. 86).

**Time permitting, allow adults** to look up and read some of the Old Testament passages (such as Mic. 5:2; Num. 24:17; Isa. 8:14; 11:1-5; and Zech. 11:12-13).

**Guide the group** to complete Day Two, activity 2 (p. 87).

**Invite a volunteer to read** the last Day Two paragraph (p. 87).

**Step 4. Day Three – Coincidental Fulfillment?**

**Write** on the board: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

**State** that is the probability of one man fulfilling just eight prophecies, let alone all sixty major messianic prophecies and 270 ramifications. Yet Jesus did.

**Invite responses** to Day Three, activity 1 (p. 88).

**Analyze** why the claim that Jesus deliberately attempted to fulfill Jewish prophecies is illogical.

**Ask rhetorically:** Perhaps Jesus could have some control over fulfilling the prophecies regarding the Messiah’s suffering and death, but why would He deliberately attempt to fulfill those predictions if He were not the Messiah?

**Discuss** the author’s question (p. 89) as to why God would go to all the trouble to inspire all those Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 89).

**Step 5. Day Four – Isn’t There Some Other Way?, Part 1**

**Ask:** Why do you think people look for alternatives to Jesus being the only way to a relationship with God?

**Invite responses** to Day Four, activity 1 (p. 90).

**State** these questions arise out of a misunderstanding about God’s basic nature and character.

**Request adults read** the third Day Four paragraph (pp. 90-91, beginning with “Basically, we know God …”) and **underline** God’s attributes.

**Explore** how God solved the dilemma between His great love for sinful humanity and His holy, just, and righteous nature that cannot abide with sin.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 91).

**Invite a volunteer to read** the last paragraph of Day Four (pp. 91-92).

**Step 6. Day Five – Isn’t There Some Other Way?, Part 2**

**Ask:** Who did Jesus die for?

**Evaluate** what the author means by saying Jesus died for God the Father (p. 92).

**Relay the illustration** of the father and judge and relate that to what God did for us in Christ (p. 92).

**Step 7. Practical Application - Live Out the Lesson**

**Invite a volunteer to read** John 14:6.

**Invite participants to share** what they have gained from this session (and previous sessions in this study) that gives Jesus the right to make that exclusive claim.

**Ask:** How can we confess Jesus is the only way to salvation both with our mouths and our lives?

**Urge** anyone who would like to know more about having new life in Christ to talk with you after the session.

**Close in prayer.**

After the Session

**Follow up** with participants who expressed an interest in having a relationship with God through faith in Jesus.