

Lesson: Teaching About Himself

Objective: To learn that Jesus claimed (said) Himself to be God. And we must choose either To believe that He is God or to believe that He is a liar.

Background: This is probably Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem from Galilee. The Feast of Tabernacles (in October) remembering the Israelites (Jews), wanderings in the wilderness for 40 years after they escaped from Egypt, and also celebrated the end of Harvest. It's the "Thanksgiving" of the Jews.

Instructions: Imagine you and your friend Mike happen to be in Jerusalem for the feast and for the first time you both met and heard Jesus, the new teacher from Galilee (read John 7:10-32; John 8:12-39 once). On your way home, you both try to remember the scene, the claim, the reaction, and try to answer the question, "Who is this new teacher from Galilee?"

Let's Think: Please read carefully the verses at the end of each question first.

The Scene at Jerusalem

It was October, and Jerusalem was crowded with visitors who came for the feast and everywhere you went, you heard people talking about the new teacher from Galilee named Jesus. They wondered whether Jesus would come to the feast. It was said that He didn't come to the Feast of Passover in April, about 6 months earlier. The feast lasted 7 days and it was almost halfway through, when Jesus showed up and began to teach in the temple and the people were all surprised. Some people liked Him but others didn't.

The Claim (teachings of Jesus, the new teacher from Galilee.

1. a) Do you remember, Mike, what Jesus claimed (said) about His teaching when the authorities question His ability as a teacher? (John 7:15,16; also, John 8:26,28,40)

b) And He said there is a way we can know whether or not He was telling the truth, I don't remember "how", do you? (John 7:17)

2. a) I remember what Jesus claimed (said) about His origin – Where He came from. Do you remember what He said, Mike? (John 7:37,38; also John 7:16,33; John 8:16,26,29,42)

b) And how about His mission – why He came to earth? (John 8:28,29; also, John 6:38)

3. a) You really remember His words, don't you Mike? Tell me what He said that He can do for men, I wish I remembered! (John 7:37,38; John 8:12; John 8:34,36)

b) And do we have to do anything if we want the blessings He brings? Explain.

The Reactions of the Jews

4. a) Tell me if I am wrong, Jesus' words seemed to mean (imply) that when we hear His word, we must choose either to believe in Him or not to believe. Am I right? But what difference does it make whether or not we believe in His Word? (John 8:24; also, John 8:51; John 5:24)

b) You know the authorities were out to get Him (John 7:19,25). But I don't think Jesus was afraid. Do you think He was afraid? Explain (John 7:30,43,44; also, John 8:20)

The Question to be answered: "Who is this new teacher from Galilee?"

5. a) Mike, tell me, can Jesus be a "good" teacher if He is not God as He claimed (said) Himself to be? Why?

b) Do you believe this new teacher from Galilee is a liar, Mike? If not, "Who is He?"

Let's Remember: Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58)

