

Sixth Story of Creation to Culmination: Jesus' Life

First Third:

Express joy in Christ together

Vision 100

Questions:

How are you doing?

How did you obey last week's teaching?

Who are you witnessing to?

Who has come to faith? Are they witnessing to those in their circle?

Who are you training to become a reproducing disciple? Are they training others?

Second Third:

Pray briefly for God to open up His message to us.

DO stick to the story.

DON'T talk about politics; DON'T chase rabbit trails; DON'T focus on minor points in the passage.

DON'T talk about religion. DON'T dominate the conversation.

This is a true story from the Bible.

When all was ready, God sent an angel named Gabriel to appear to a young woman named Mary. He told her that she would become pregnant, though she had never had sexual relations. Gabriel continued:

"You shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:31-33)

Before Jesus began to teach publicly, he was baptized – that is, immersed in water – by a man named John. When Jesus came out of the water, "a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17)

Jesus taught the people with authority. Crowds came to hear him. "The crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority." (Matthew 7:28-29)

Jesus also was a powerful miracle worker. One day, he and his disciples were in a boat.

There arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:24-27)

Jesus' power is greater than the powers of nature.

On another occasion over 5,000 people came to listen to Jesus teach about God. When evening came they had not eaten and were hungry. Altogether they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus used the five loaves of bread and two fish to feed over 5,000 people. **Jesus' power is able to satisfy man's needs.**

Another time, Jesus saw a man with many demons inside him. The man was very powerful and dangerous. Yet Jesus loved the man and cast the demons out of him. **Jesus is more powerful than the evil spiritual world.**

On another occasion, Jesus' good friend Lazarus became sick and died. Jesus was not with him. Several days later Jesus arrived at His friend's house. The dead man's sister came to Jesus and said

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said

to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (John 11:21-27)

Jesus then went to the tomb. He wept. Then, "he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out." (John 11:43-44)

Jesus' power is greater than death.

The Bible tells us that "he committed no sin, nor was deceit found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). That is, every minute of every day he loved God with all his heart, all his soul, all his mind, and all his strength. And he loved every person he encountered as he loved himself. All of his teachings, all of his powerful acts, displayed this love.

This is a true story from the Bible.

Have someone read the story, and then another person tell it.

What does this story tell us about God? About His character? About His promises?

What does this story tell us about Jesus?

What does this story tell us about men?

Are there sins to avoid? Promises to claim? Examples to follow? Commands to obey?

Last Third:

Practice telling the story

What will you do differently this week because of this story?

Who will you witness to or share this story with next week?