

LESSON TEN

TO SEE GOD CLEARLY, WATCH JESUS CLOSELY

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Christ is the visible image
of the invisible God...

Colossians 1:15 NLT

Summary: Jesus is perfect theology. As we read the Bible, we discover the truth about who God is by looking at Jesus. In our previous lesson, the children learned that the cross is the key to unlock the Bible so we can understand it. The cross means we always come to the Bible knowing God loves us and is for us so much that He gave His life for us. In this lesson, we will continue to look at Jesus to see who God is as we read the Bible.

Topics:

- Jesus is the Visible Image of God
- Jesus is God's Imprint
- Jesus is in Every Story
- Compare Everything to Jesus
- Turn to Jesus as You Read

What You Need:

- Pin art imprint toy (*see website for example*)
- *Where's Waldo?* book: 2-3 copies of the same book
- Video: Boy Reveals Jesus (*link on website*)
- Spot the Difference worksheet*: 1 per child (*appendix*)
- Markers: 1 per child
- Actor in a Jesus costume
- Flashlight
- Thin white sheet
- Bible
- Verses to display: Colossians 1:15 NLT, John 5:19 NLT, Hebrews 1:3 ESV, John 5:39 NLT, 2 Corinthians 3:16 NLT

TEACHING

INTRODUCTION

We are now on our second week of learning how to read the Bible. Who remembers from last week how many books there are in the Bible? *(Allow children to answer.)* Wow! You all were really listening well last week.

Now there are many people who read the Bible, even all 66 books, but they don't know certain things about how to read it. In the end, they get confused and stop reading. Have any of you ever felt confused when you read the Bible or listened to someone else read it? *(Allow children to answer.)* This week we are going to learn a few fun things that will make reading the Bible easier for us. They will help us not feel confused as we read. Instead, we will be able to understand what God is saying to us.

MEMORY VERSE

Items Needed:

- *Verses to display: Colossians 1:15 NLT, John 5:19 NLT*

Let's look at a couple Bible verses, which are also the first things we learn this week about reading the Bible.

Colossians 1:15 NLT says, "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God..."

What do you all think this means? *(Allow children to answer.)* Did you know that Jesus makes the invisible God visible? When Jesus came to live on earth, people got to see what God looked like. They got to see God. Now when we read the Bible, we see who God is by reading about Jesus.

Here's the next verse: John 5:19 NLT says, "Jesus explained, 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. **He does only what he sees the Father doing.** Whatever the Father does, the Son does also.'"

Have a child come up and stand on the stage while you're at the back of the room. Have the children look at the child (who represents Jesus) and the child on stage will do what you're

doing (you represent the Father). Make motions and have the child copy you. Explain that by watching the child on the stage, the other children can find out what the teacher is doing.

As we read the Bible, how do we know what kinds of things Father God does? We watch Jesus! Jesus only did what He saw His Father, God, doing. Jesus shows us God, both what He does and what He is like.

Let's look at what we just saw about Jesus another way...

OBJECT LESSON 1: JESUS IS GOD'S IMPRINT

Items Needed:

- *Verse to display: Hebrews 1:3 ESV*
- *Pin art imprint toy*

Hebrews 1:3 ESV says, "He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and **the exact imprint** of His nature..."

Does anyone know what an "imprint" is? (*Allow children to answer.*) Right! An imprint is a representation of someone else. I want to show you an example.

Have one child come forward to help you. Have the child put their hand into the pin art toy and show the children the imprint of the hand. Have a child hold up one finger and put it in the toy, then show them the imprint. Put your face into the toy and show them how much the imprint looks like you.

This is an imprint! Whatever you put into this toy, you see an imprint of that exact thing. Since Jesus is the **exact imprint** of God's nature, if God were to put His face in one of these toys, you would see Jesus. If Jesus put His face in one of these toys, you would see God! Jesus shows us exactly who God is.

OBJECT LESSON 2: JESUS IS IN EVERY STORY

Items Needed:

- *Where's Waldo?* book: 2-3 copies of the same book
- *Verse to display: John 5:39 NLT*
- *Video: Boy Reveals Jesus*

Teachers: *There are variations of the Where's Waldo? books in almost every country in the world. If you are in a country other than USA, the main character, Waldo, may go by a different names in different countries. If you search "international variations of Where's Waldo?" you will most likely be able to find one in your language.*

Do you all remember the game we played last week where you had to figure out what type of writing each book of the Bible was? Do any of you remember what types of books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are? (*Allow children to answer.*) Yes! They are called gospels! These four books begin the New Testament, and they tell us about when Jesus walked on the earth.

We can read the gospels and see Jesus easily. He is right there out in the open! He is on every page, and we know that as we read about Him, we are seeing God clearly. But Jesus isn't only in the gospels or the New Testament, He is hidden in the Old Testament but is easily seen in the New Testament. Now, I want to show you something really amazing, but first, I need some helpers.

Have two to three of the same Where's Waldo? books open to the same page. Pick two to three children from the crowd and have them look on the page to find Waldo. Make it a race and once the first child sees Waldo, have him or her show the other children who are on stage. Then show the rest of the children in the audience. Do this with two to three pages depending on how fast or slow the children are finding Waldo.

Do you all see how Waldo is hidden on every single page in these books? This is the same with the Bible. Jesus is hidden all throughout it, just like Waldo is hidden all throughout this book. Jesus is inside every Bible story; you just need to find him. Even though you might see all sorts of other things on the page of a *Where's Waldo?* book, the point of the book is to find Waldo. When you read the Bible, you will see and learn all different kinds of things but in everything you learn, the point of the Bible is to find Jesus.

As we were looking for Waldo I thought, “What if we had the guy who drew the Waldo pictures right here with us?” Do you think if he were here it would be easier to find Waldo?

Here’s what Jesus said about the Bible:

John 5:39 NLT says, “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!”

All the stories in the Bible, including the Old Testament, point to Jesus. He is hidden inside them. All you have to do is find Him!

Teachers, this next part is optional: Show the video of the young boy going through every book in the Bible. Video link can be found on the curriculum website (www.sethdahl.com/revivalkids1).

GAME: COMPARE EVERYTHING YOU READ ABOUT GOD TO JESUS

Items Needed:

- *Spot the Difference worksheet*: 1 per child*
- *Markers: 1 per child*

Since Jesus is hidden in the Old Testament but is easily seen in the New Testament, there will be times when you read things in the Old Testament about God that are different than what Jesus shows you. So if you read something in the Bible that is different than what Jesus shows you, which one is right?

Put the children into small groups. Give each child the Spot the Differences worksheet (appendix) and a marker. Let them take several minutes to circle the differences in the picture. Tell them they can work together to find them. You can mention that working together on spotting the differences on this paper is similar to how we can learn from each other when we talk with family and friends about what we are seeing in the Bible.

You all found differences in the pictures. Did you know one of the pictures is the real one, and the other had small changes that made it different? As you read stories in the Old Testament and look for Jesus, you will find differences between those stories and Jesus.

Let me give you an example: In the story of Noah, God sent a flood and people died for

their sins, but on the cross Jesus is the one who dies for people's sins. Both of them really happened, but the story of Noah is different than the story of Jesus. Which one shows us the clearer picture of God? (*Jesus dying for our sins*) When you see these differences like this as you read the Old Testament, now you know Jesus is the clearest picture of God. As you notice differences, just like in the pictures, you want to always compare them to Jesus, because He is the clearest picture of God.

OBJECT LESSON 3: TURN TO JESUS AS YOU READ

Items Needed:

- *Actor in a Jesus costume*
- *Flashlight*
- *Thin white sheet*
- *Verses to display: 2 Corinthians 3:16 NLT*

Have a person dressed as Jesus standing behind a white sheet with a flashlight or spotlight behind them. This way the kids can only see a shadow of who is behind the sheet. Experiment with this before you do it on stage. It is best to have the sheet pretty close to Jesus so the shadow is near his actual size and easy to see.

Since Jesus is hidden all throughout the Old Testament, it is important to know one thing: in the Old Testament, people didn't see God clearly. In fact, one place even says that a veil, which is like a curtain or sheet, covered people's hearts so they couldn't see God clearly.

Look at this curtain here. You can tell something or someone is behind it, but you can't really tell who it is. You can't see them clearly. This is how it was for people who lived in the Old Testament. The curtain kept them from seeing God clearly. Many people that read the Old Testament today, in our time, have the same problem. They also have a hard time seeing God clearly.

Let's look at this verse: 2 Corinthians 3:16 NLT, "But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."

Ok, let's try this. Repeat after me, "Jesus, we turn to you so there won't be any veil on our hearts. We turn to you so we can see you clearly as we read the Bible."

Have the sheet fall to the ground as they finish their prayer of turning to Jesus.

Wow, look at that! It's that simple. Now, we see Jesus clearly. It was Him all along behind that veil, and when we turned to Him, the veil was taken away.

CLOSING AND ACTIVATION

Items Needed:

- *Bible*
- *Actor in a Jesus costume*

I've been paying attention during the whole lesson and have been thinking about what this means for us as we learn to read the Bible. It means God wants us to see Him clearly as we read. He wants to help us. We don't have to try to figure it all out on our own. By simply turning to Jesus, we see Him clearly, and we see the imprint of who God is. He is here with us.

Have the person who was playing Jesus behind the curtain step down next to you. Both of you sit down on the stage, and you open your Bible.

As I read the Bible, Jesus will help me. After all, He's the one who gave all the people who wrote the Bible the words to say. He knows everything about this big book, because it's His book. As you read, you can ask Him questions; you can talk to Him, and He will help you see Him clearly.

Lead the children in a prayer about what was written above: that as they read, they will sense Jesus with them, and they will see Him clearly.

