

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

Timeless Truth: Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Bible Basis: Matthew 19:13–15; Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17

Key Verse: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." Matthew 19:14, NIV

Reference: The Story for Kids, Chapter 25: "Jesus, the Son of God"

PARENT TIPS

Read and discuss the key point from the class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith encourages your family to think about Jesus' claim that he was God. Theologian C.S. Lewis helps you out. The Extra Mile has your family watch a couple of videos about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

GET THE POINT

Jesus, the Son of God, told the children to come to him. I am important to Jesus.

TABLE TALK

- Jesus used startling statements to grab people's attention. In this chapter of *The Story*, he says "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me . . . will save it" (Mark 8:35) and "many who are first will be last, and the last first" (Mark 10:31). What do you think that means? Do you think it's true? Why?
- Why do some of Jesus' teachings seem so opposite of what society says?
- Which of Jesus' teachings are the hardest for you to understand?
- Is it possible to follow the Bible's commands without fully understanding them?
- Talk about how faith impacts your walk with the Lord.

LIVING FAITH

In this chapter of *The Story*, Jesus makes it very clear that he is God's Son and the Messiah who's come to save people from their sins. Some people didn't like his teachings and walked away from him. The same thing happens today as people wrestle with what Jesus said. History records the fact that Jesus walked the earth and taught many people. But Jesus said he was God, and that causes a dilemma for people—or as C.S. Lewis might say a "trilemma," as they decide if they think Jesus was

a liar, lunatic, or Lord. Figuring out what you think about Jesus is the most important decision you'll ever make.

C.S. Lewis is best known for writing *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and all of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, but he also wrote some great books about theology, including *Mere Christianity*. In that book he writes: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

After reading the above excerpt from *Mere Christianity*, discuss it as a family.

- **What do you like best about Lewis' thinking?**
- **Why is this argument so effective?**
- **What do you think people who aren't followers of Jesus would think about these statements?**

EXTRA MILE

A parent's blessing was an important part of Jewish culture throughout the Bible. One of the most famous blessings in the Bible is when Jacob steals his father Isaac's blessing from Esau. Spend time this week speaking a blessing out loud over each of your children every day. You may want to use a blessing from Scripture to pray over your children. As you bless your child, place your hand on his or her head or shoulder. If this is a new activity for your family, you and your children may find this a little awkward or uncomfortable at first. As you keep doing this, you may find your entire family looks forward to this part of your day. Blessings from grandparents and other family members can also be powerful.