

Lesson 2: Responding To Jesus

What we want students to learn: That seeing Jesus for who He is and responding to Him in worship may look different ways, but the important thing is that we respond.

What we want them to do with what they've learned: To respond in worship to Christ, and to respond in a way that shares the message of Christ.

Scripture Focus: Luke 4:31-37, Luke 7:11-17, Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 13:53-57

Overview: In Colossians 1, Paul says that Jesus is the “image of the invisible God.” Jesus was the physical manifestation of God Himself, sent to earth in order that people might believe, follow, and worship. Worship is a right response resulting from an encounter with God. Reading about Jesus in the Gospels is the fullest encounter we can have this side of heaven. So it follows that our response to an encounter with Jesus would be full and true worship. This lesson will challenge your students to examine their response to Christ and to worship in a way that brings glory to God.

Teacher Prep Video

The *elements Teacher Prep Videos* are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your “Worship Teacher Prep Video,” click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/worship-teacher-prep>
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Bible Background

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. *The Details* gives you background info for each book, while *The Main Point* gives you an overview of how the passages are used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by “context”?** In every **ym360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By “context” we mean at the very least helping students know *who* wrote the book, *when* it was written, and *why* it was written.
- **What's The Big Deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a “big picture” understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

The Details

Matthew

- **Author:** Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates in his Gospel.
- **Time frame:** Most people hold to Matthew's Gospel being written in the late 50's or 60's AD, though there are some who think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.

- **Purpose:** Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. But he was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as his Gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

Luke

- **Author:** Luke was a doctor, a Gentile Christian and a companion of Paul.
- **Time frame:** The Gospel of Luke was written around 60 AD.
- **Purpose:** Luke is the only Gentile author of the Bible. His entire purpose was to write an accurate account of the life of Jesus so as to present Jesus as Savior, fully God and fully man. It is one of the synoptic Gospels and has much in common with the Matthew and Mark.

The Main Point

The idea is to help your students understand that seeing Jesus for who He is and responding to Him in worship may look different ways, but the important thing is that we respond.

- First, you'll teach students that when we truly encounter Jesus through the Bible, and we see Him for who He is, our response to Him reflects an attitude of worship. You'll do this by teaching the Matthew and Luke passages.
 - Finally, using Matthew 13, you'll help students understand that some will look at Jesus and not see Him because of their unwillingness to believe. Their response is the opposite of worship.
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Lesson Plan

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called *The Lead In*; the Bible study section called *The Main Event*; an application-focused segment called *The Last Word*.

The Lead In

- **Goal:** The goal is that by responding to different situations, your students will begin to understand the importance of their response when it comes to worship.
- **Set-Up:** You will need to make two signs, AGREE and DISAGREE and place them on opposite sides of your youth room.

BEGIN by pointing out the "agree" and "disagree" signs you have placed on opposite sides of the room. Explain that you are going to read some statements and they are to respond by going to the agree side of the room or the disagree side of the room. Tell them not to let the opinions of others sway their thinking and to respond as honestly as they can.

THEN, Read each of the statements below then allow a little time for the students to decide what they think and respond likewise. You may want to comment on each statement by saying, "Looks like it's evenly divided on that" or "Everyone seems to have responded the same way." Some potential topics include:

- **Math is the greatest subject taught at my school.**
- **I would be lost without my cell phone.**
- **Girls are definitely smarter than guys.**
- **Cats are better pets than dogs.**
- **When it is time to eat, I would pick pizza over chicken fingers.**
- **A trip to the beach is much better than going to the mountains.**
- **I like to read the Old Testament more than the New Testament.**

- **Jesus dying on the cross for me is just an awesome thought.**

THEN, allow students to return to their seats and ask if they found it difficult to respond to any of the statements. Tell them the most important part of this activity was to simply respond to what was being said.

FINALLY, tell students you want to help them understand that responding is an important part of worship. Remind them that this is the second lesson in a three part series on worship. In last week's lesson they discovered that worship is the right response that results from our encountering God. Explain that today you want to help them look at some New Testament passages and see that while the response of worship may have some different looks, the most important thing is to simply respond.

The Main Event

- **Goal:** The goal is to lead your students to see how some people responded when they encountered Jesus and to understand how those responses relate to worship.
- **Set Up:** Make sure each student has either a Bible or a copy of the passages used in this section.

BEGIN the Bible study part of the lesson by telling students that last week the focus of the lesson was on how some Old Testament characters responded to God. Tell them that this week you want to switch to the New Testament, and specifically look at different people who encountered Jesus and how worship was part of their response to him.

NEXT, read or have a student read Luke 4:31-37. Give just a little context by telling them Jesus spent a good deal of time in Capernaum and the teaching described in the verses took place in the temple or church. Have them look at verse 32 and ask someone to tell you what word is used to describe the reaction of the people to Jesus' teaching.

- *Answer:* Amazed, astonished, impressed.

Next have them to look at the end of verse 32 and ask for someone to tell you why people responded that way.

- *Answer:* His message had authority or power.

Point their attention to the end of the passage after Jesus healed the demon-possessed man and that once again the people were amazed then ask what was their response.

- *Answer:* They went out and starting telling people about Jesus.

Take a moment to remind them the first point of the lesson is this: **When we truly encounter Jesus through the Bible, and we see Him for who He is, our response to Him reflects an attitude of worship.**

THEN, tell them that many other people encountered Jesus in the New Testament. Read or have a student read Luke 7:11-17 and briefly comment on what happened in the passage. Then ask the following questions:

- **What are the similarities in these two passages?**
 - *Answer:* Jesus performed a miracle both times, both times the people responded with amazement or awe, both times the people went out and told others about Jesus.
- **What is a different response to Jesus in these verses?**
 - *Answer:* The people praised or gave glory to God because of what happened.

Tell the students you want to show them one more example of an encounter with Jesus and read or have a student read Matthew 14:22-33. Add just a bit of context to the story by explaining they were on the east side

of the Sea of Galilee and Jesus wanted the disciples to take a boat to the other side, probably back to Capernaum. Jesus stayed behind to be alone and pray and later performed another miracle by walking on the water out to their boat. After saving Peter from drowning the disciples responded to what they saw by worshipping Him and proclaiming that He was the Son of God.

NEXT, you want to pull these three narratives together and not only help the students see what is common in all three but how these situations relate to the world they live in today. Ask:

- **How did the people in the three stories encounter Jesus?**
 - *Answer:* By listening to His preaching and watching Him perform miracles.
- **What were the responses of the people who encountered Jesus?**
 - *Answer:* Their awe and amazement resulted in telling others about Jesus, praising or glorifying God, outright worship and proclamation that Jesus was God's Son.
- **Think about last week's lesson and see if you can remember some of the ways mentioned that we encounter God.**
 - *Answer:* Through His created world, through singing, through reading the Bible, and by giving our lives to Him.
- **Do you think those are the same ways we encounter Jesus?**
 - Responses will vary
- **The stories in our lesson happened 2,000 years ago. Do you think any of these responses would look different in our world today? Lead your students to examine how the responses would be different, if at all, in the 21st century.**
 - *TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS* – We have many more outlets to tell people about Jesus such as social media, telephone, texting, through television and movies, through the Internet, etc.
 - *PRAISING AND GLORIFYING GOD* – Our instruments are different and louder, we have access to music through many devices, the simple act of praising God may be much like it was then.
 - *WORSHIP* – Brainstorm some ways worship is different today than back then.
 - *PROCLAMATION* – This one has probably changed the least because it is simply testifying who Jesus is and what He has done in a person's life.

Point out that while the worship responses may be different and look or sound different the most important thing is to respond to Jesus. Remind them the response to an encounter with Jesus is WORSHIP.

FINALLY, close by reminding them about the AGREE or DISAGREE activity and tell them there is another response to an encounter with Jesus and that is to not believe or disagree that He is God's Son. Read or have a student read Matthew 13:53-57. Point out that Jesus had returned to his hometown of Nazareth and was speaking to people who knew His family and his upbringing. To understand the reaction of the people in Jesus' hometown point out the following things:

1. **The amazement in verse 54 is not like the amazement expressed by other people in the lesson. The word really means they were skeptical and doubtful from the beginning.**
2. **They set out to prove their doubt by noting that Jesus' father was a simple carpenter and that He did not come from a prominent family.**
3. **The people asked where Jesus got His wisdom and questioned His mighty works because they knew He was not a product of their fine Jewish schools and had not studied under the proper "educated men" of the town. Be sure to point out that even today people think wisdom and power from God can only come from those who are properly educated.**

Tell your students that the people of Jesus' town chose not to believe in Him and were not awed and did not tell others about Him. In other words they chose to DISAGREE that Jesus was from God and their response was not worship. Conclude this part of the lesson by saying:

- **You are in this Bible study most likely because you have encountered Jesus and responded with your first act of worship which was to accept Him as your Lord and Savior. As you continue to encounter Him you will continue to respond through worship by praising God and by telling others about Jesus. Some people will respond positively to what you say and others will do just the opposite and reject or even challenge your beliefs and expressions. Remember, you are not responsible for the way others respond to Christ. Continue to encounter Jesus and respond in worship and if you are compelled to tell others about Christ and what He has done in your life, remember that the response of others is between that person and God.**

Transition to the "Last Word" to wrap up your lesson.

The Last Word

- **Goal:** The goal is to help students respond to various situations and determine if their response was an act or worship.
- **Set-Up:** Prepare four situation cards with the situations described in this part of the lesson. Also provide pencils or pens.

FIRST, tell your students that First Responders are those people who are quick to be the first at the scene of an emergency like fire, police, and medical people. Explain that you want them to give some quick first responses to four situations and that you are going to divide them into four teams. *(Use your favorite technique to group students here. If your group is small, try going over all the situations as a group.)*

NEXT, tell them that each of the four cards will have a situation, a place for you to respond, then a space to write if the group thinks the response is worship. Give each group a pen or pencil and one of the four situation cards you prepared ahead of time.

- SITUATION 1: You step outside your house one night and look up and see the most incredible full moon you have ever seen.
 - RESPONSE:
 - WAS THAT WORSHIP?
- SITUATION 2: Your youth group attends an incredible praise and worship concert.
 - RESPONSE:
 - WAS THAT WORSHIP?
- SITUATION 3: While reading your Bible one night you come across a scripture that speaks directly to something you are struggling with in your life.
 - RESPONSE:
 - WAS THAT WORSHIP?
- SITUATION 4: Your parents, who were talking about divorce, tell you they have been going to counseling and God is healing their marriage.
 - RESPONSE:
 - WAS THAT WORSHIP?

GIVE each group about 5 minutes for the activity then have everyone come back together in the large group. Have each team read their situation, their response, and then the answer to the worship question. Be sure to

guide their responses based on what was taught in today's lesson. You may want to add a response of your own to each situation and ask if that response was worship.

FINALLY, close the Bible study by emphasizing the importance of responding to encounters with God with worship. Point out that in each of stories in the lesson the ultimate response of the people was to tell others about Jesus. Worship between us and God is great. Being amazed and awed by what God does is a great experience. Remind the students that God wants them to engage their world with His message and that the worship response of proclamation must touch the lost world. Tell them that people need to hear the stories of how Christ has impacted their lives and telling those stories is worship.

- Don't forget to distribute the "Worship Lesson 2" devotions to your students. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Facebook, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Consider texting students a couple of times during the week to encourage them to follow through with reading the devotions.

We Want To Hear From You . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.

