



Use Week of:

Unit 26 • Session 2

Jesus Was Questioned

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 22; Mark 12; Luke 20

STORY POINT:

Jesus spoke with wisdom and authority.

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

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LEADER Bible Study

The religious leaders despised Jesus. He was a threat to their power, and they didn't believe He was the Messiah. The Jews decided to confront Jesus with questions. Perhaps He would misspeak, and they could trap Him with His words. The Pharisees' disciples asked Him, "Teacher, is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

As far as these men were concerned, Jesus could not give a satisfactory answer to this question. If Jesus said God's law required them to pay taxes to Caesar, they could get the Jewish people—who hated paying taxes to the Romans—to turn away from Jesus. If Jesus said God's law did not require them to pay taxes to Caesar, they could convince the Romans to arrest Jesus. But Jesus answered wisely: "Give ... to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21). The men were speechless, and they left.

Then an expert in the law asked Jesus which command in God's law is most important. The Pharisees knew the law well and felt prepared to argue. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then He emphasized a second command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). These commands summarize the rest of the law, and the Pharisees could not object.

Jesus turned the tables and asked the Pharisees about the Messiah: "Whose son is he?" The Pharisees recognized the Messiah as the son of David. Jesus referred to Psalm 110, in which David calls the Messiah "Lord." Why would he do that? The Pharisees had no answer. As fully man, Jesus is the son of David. But as fully God, He is greater than David; He is Lord. No one dared to question Jesus again.

When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He has authority in heaven and on earth.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Was Questioned

Matthew 22; Mark 12; Luke 20

The religious leaders heard Jesus teaching in Jerusalem, and they decided to ask tricky questions to catch Him saying something wrong. They sent some men to Jesus. The men said, “Teacher, we know You tell the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”



Jesus knew what they were doing.
“Why are you trying to trick Me?”
He asked. “Show Me the coin you use to pay taxes.”

The men brought Him a denarius. Jesus asked, “Whose picture is on the coin? Whose name is on it?”
“Caesar’s,” they answered.

Jesus said, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and give to God what belongs to God.”

The men were amazed at what Jesus said, and they went away.

Later, the religious leaders came to question Jesus again. “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important command is like it: Love your neighbor

as yourself.”

A man said to Jesus, “That’s right. To love God and your neighbor as yourself is far more important than offerings and sacrifices.”

The man answered wisely, and Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Then Jesus asked the religious leaders a question: “Whose son is the Messiah?”

“David’s,” they said.

“How can that be?” Jesus asked. “David called the Messiah ‘Lord.’ Why would he do that if the Messiah is his son?”

The religious leaders didn’t know what to say. Their plan had failed, and no one was brave enough to ask Him any more questions.

Christ Connection: When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is the Word of God, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Jesus has authority in heaven and on earth.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Vary your voice:** Change your voice for different people in the story. Differentiate between Jesus’ dialogue and that of the religious leaders.
- **Show pictures:** Draw or print out a picture of Jesus, pictures of several religious leaders, and an empty speech bubble. Display the pictures. As you tell the story, move the story bubble between the people to show who is talking.

INTRODUCE the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share stories about a time they had to answer a hard question at school. How did they figure out the answer?

SAY • We all face many questions that are tricky or difficult to answer. Thankfully, God is perfectly wise, and His Word helps us know the answers to many of life's most difficult questions. Today, we will hear about a time the religious leaders asked Jesus very difficult questions to trick Him into saying something wrong. Do you think their plan worked?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Tricky Questions” activity page. Encourage the kids to read the riddles and circle the picture that represents the answer to the riddle.

SAY • Riddles are supposed to be tricky. If you think about the wording of a riddle, there is usually only one answer that makes sense. Today we will learn about a time Jesus answered many tricky questions.

- “Tricky Questions” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Twenty questions

Think of an object and give the kids 20 chances to ask yes or no questions about the object. When they have asked all their questions, see if they know what object you are thinking of. Play additional rounds as time allows. If this is too challenging for your group, consider offering descriptive statements one at a time to see if they can guess the object before you give them 20 statements.

SAY • It took a lot of questions to figure out what object I was thinking about. In our story today, we will learn about a time the religious leaders asked Jesus many questions. However, they weren't playing a game; they wanted to trick Jesus into saying something wrong. What do you think happened to their plan?

OPTION 2: Bible quiz

Provide a Bible to each kid. Ask the kids general questions about the Bible. Award one point to each kid who answers correctly and two bonus points if they can tell you where to find the answer in the Bible.

• Bibles

Suggested questions:

- What is the first book of the Bible? (*Genesis*)
- Where was Jesus born? (*Bethlehem, Luke 2*)
- How many plagues did God send on Egypt? (*10, Exodus 7–11*)
- How many apostles did Jesus choose? (*12, Mark 3*)
- How many books make up the Bible? (*66*)

SAY • Great job with those questions. Let's see what kind of questions the religious leaders asked Jesus.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• gavel

[Leader enters wearing a long black robe and carrying a gavel.]

LEADER • Hey, everyone! Welcome back to my courtroom.

I'm Judge [*your name*]. My job is to make sure justice is done. Whenever people are accused of a crime, they come here with lawyers. There are two teams of lawyers in every case. One team, called the prosecution, tries to show that the accused person is guilty of the crime. The other team of lawyers is called the defense and tries to show that the prosecution is wrong.

In our system, a person is considered innocent until proven guilty by the prosecution. That means that the defense doesn't have to prove the client's innocence, they only have to show that the prosecution is unable to prove guilt. As a result, sometimes the questions the lawyers ask people in court can get a little tricky. Both teams of lawyers

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

will try to catch the other team making a mistake, and a great way to do that is by asking certain questions in very specific ways.

You know, it kind of reminds me of a Bible story. Jesus' enemies wanted to catch Him saying something wrong, so they asked some very tricky questions. Do you think Jesus was surprised? No way! Let me tell you all about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we talk about our story, it's good to have a big picture question to guide our thinking. Right now our question and answer is: ***What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.*** Each part of that answer is important. If Jesus had not lived a perfect life, then His death couldn't have paid for our sins. Had Jesus not died, then the punishment for our sins would still fall on us. Had Jesus stayed dead, then we would have no hope of eternal life with God. Jesus did all three things to save us from sin and death.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

- Giant Timeline

LEADER • Jesus is God's Son. He came to earth as a human and traveled Israel teaching about God and His kingdom, performing miracles, healing people, and even raising people from the dead. Jesus' ministry made Him very popular with the people and very unpopular with the religious leaders. Last week we learned that **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem**

as their King. This week, we will learn about the beginnings of the religious leaders' plan to put a stop to Jesus' ministry.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 22; Mark 12; Luke 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Was Questioned."

LEADER • Wow! Those were some tricky questions. I know for a fact that I wouldn't have been able to answer them. However, **Jesus spoke with wisdom and authority.** No matter what kind of question Jesus' enemies asked, He had just the right answer.

The questions they asked were about things that could have easily caused anger if Jesus hadn't been perfectly wise to answer them. Taxes are the money governments charge people to pay for things like roads and armies. No one really likes paying taxes, but the Jews in Jesus' time especially disliked paying taxes to Rome. Rome was an enemy living in their land, and the Jews pay them taxes! The religious leaders were hoping that Jesus would say one of two wrong things.

If Jesus had said, "Yes, it's good to pay taxes to Caesar," the religious leaders would have accused Jesus of being an enemy of God and His people. If Jesus had said, "No, we should not pay taxes," the religious leaders would have tattled on Jesus to the Romans. Jesus' answer was perfect. He showed that governments do have the right to charge some taxes, but we all have a responsibility to live generously

- Bibles
- "Jesus Was Questioned" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

toward God and His people. No matter what question they asked, Jesus had the right answer.

When Jesus finally asked a question of His own, the religious leaders saw that they were outmatched for sure. They thought they had a great understanding of Scripture, but Jesus showed them they understood much less than they thought. The Messiah is both the son of David—because Jesus was a descendant of David—and the Son of God—because He was born to Mary alone and God is His true Father.

Christ connection

LEADER • When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is the Word of God, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Jesus has authority in heaven and on earth.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 26, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why the religious leaders hated Jesus. Guide them to discuss how they can love people who reject Jesus.

• “Unit 26, Session 2”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Print a copy of the “Not on Sunday” printable. Display the photo of Eric Liddell and read the short story about him. You may choose to select a strong reader to read the story.

LEADER • Eric wanted to be obedient to Jesus in all things, even at the Olympics. We are learning that **Jesus**

• “Not on Sunday”
printable

spoke with wisdom and authority, and Eric knew that the words in the Bible are true and should be followed. It was more important to him to do what he believed was right, instead of what his country wanted him to do.

Close in prayer, thanking God for missionaries who are obedient to God. Focus on those your church supports.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Philippians 2:8. Then sing the key passage song.

LEADER • When sin entered the world, God would have been perfectly just to destroy Adam and Eve. God showed His wonderful love and mercy by working out His perfect plan to save people from sin. Jesus obeyed God perfectly. He left His home in heaven and came to earth. He lived a perfect life and still allowed His enemies to kill Him as though He were a criminal. Jesus' obedience to God's plan made the way for us to be saved from sin.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • God is good to us. Let's sing praises to Him. Sing together "Jesus Saves."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Father, thank You for Your love. We know that Jesus is Your Son—perfect in wisdom, power, and authority. Help us have faith in Him. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

• Key Passage Poster
• "He Humbled Himself
(Philippians 2:8)"
song

• "Jesus Saves" song

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- “Key Passage Flip Cards” printable
- pencils

Print the “Key Passage Flip Cards” printable double sided and cut them apart. Ask the kids to start at level one and fill in the missing words of the key passage. After completing each level, challenge the kids to fold the card so previous levels are hidden and play the next hardest level.

SAY • Our key passage comes from a letter written by the apostle Paul. Paul’s writing helps us understand the wonderful nature of Jesus’ sacrifice. Jesus is God’s Son. He obeyed God’s plan to become human and die a death He did not deserve so that we can have life with God forever. Jesus’ humility and love provides our hope for forgiveness and our perfect example of how to live.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Mark 12. Remind them they can use the table of contents to find Mark, and that the large numbers represent the chapters. For the first three questions, ask the kids to find a verse that proves their answer. Consider showing the New Testament Israel Map to point out where Jerusalem is (*H4*).

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did the religious leaders come to ask Jesus difficult questions? (*to trap Him in His words, catch Him saying something wrong; Mark 12:13*)
2. Whose image was on the coin Jesus asked to see? (*Caesar's, Mark 12:16*)
3. What are the greatest and second greatest commandments? (*to love God with all we have and to love others as ourselves, Mark 12:29-31*)
4. How was Jesus able to answer those tricky questions so well? *Guide kids to think about Jesus' identity. Remind them that, though Jesus is fully human, He is also fully God. Jesus has all the wisdom and authority of God and was able to see through the religious leaders' schemes.*
5. How can we answer with wisdom if people challenge our knowledge of God or the Bible? *Help kids see that the source of wisdom is God Himself. Remind them that God gives wisdom generously to all who ask Him for it in faith. [See James 1:5.] Explain that we gain wisdom by studying God's Word, praying, gathering with other believers, and following the Holy Spirit's guidance.*
6. When is it difficult to trust Jesus' wisdom and authority? *Guide kids to speak honestly about their lives. Acknowledge the difficulty of trusting Jesus in hard or sad times. Help them see that we can trust Him even when we do not understand His plan or why difficult things are happening.*

SAY • The religious leaders wanted to catch Jesus saying something wrong so they could get Jesus in trouble, or get the people to turn against Him. But **Jesus spoke with wisdom and authority.**

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Note: Be sensitive to kids who may be dealing with abuse or neglect. Always report suspicions to proper parties according to the laws where you live and your ministry's policies.

LOW PREP

- dry erase board or poster board
- colored markers

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- index cards
- pens or pencils

Tip: If any kids write down questions that are better addressed by parents, plan time to help parents answer them.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: For God's glory

Draw the Olympic rings on a dry erase board or piece of poster board using blue, yellow, black, green, and red markers. Invite kids to write skills and interests they have inside the rings. Encourage them to discuss their gifts and talents.

SAY • God made missionary Eric Liddell fast. Eric used that gift to work hard and go to the Olympics. There, with the whole world watching, he had a chance to share his faith in Jesus. After the Olympics, he went back to China to continue his mission work. How can you use the gifts and skills God gave you to glorify God and grow His kingdom?

OPTION 2: Tricky questions

Help kids write down questions they have about God, Jesus, the Bible, or the gospel. Invite a pastor or elder at your church to come and answer some of the questions the kids have submitted.

SAY • **Jesus spoke with wisdom and authority**, so the religious leaders could not trick Him with hard questions. In life, we face a lot of tricky questions that we may not know the answers to. Thankfully, God has given us ways to learn the answers to the most important questions. God provides us with His Word, the Holy Spirit, and other believers. God's Word tells us what is true about God and ourselves, and the Holy Spirit helps believers—like our pastors, elders, and us—understand God's Word. We won't have all the answers to every question we can think of, but God has given us all the answers we need to

have faith in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. When we do, God forgives our sin and gives us new life with Him forever.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.