

LESSON PLAN

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

John 1:6-51; 2:1-11

Lesson Memory Verse: John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do it."

Lesson Aim: Jesus wants us to work with Him, so we should do it with all the strength that we have.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – Be plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): What is a servant? What does a servant do? (He does whatever his master or leader tells him to do.) Some servants would get food, clothes and a place to live for their work and others would get money. Have you ever worked for someone? If you did, you were a servant. What kind of work did you do? (Let the students tell their experiences when they worked for someone.) Some masters treat their servants better than other masters. Abraham treated his servants well. He trusted his chief servant so much that he sent him on a long journey to find a wife for his son, Isaac. This servant asked the Lord for help to get the right woman for Isaac. God answered his prayer and he did exactly what Abraham told him to do. He brought Rebekah with him, who became the wife of Isaac. He was a good servant for Abraham.

If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, He is your Master and you are His servant. He owns you (1 Cor 6:19-20) because He bought you with His blood when He paid for your sins on the cross (1 Pet 1:18-19). Now you owe it to him to be a good servant for Him; you should be happy to obey Him and do what He tells you to do. He wants you to work with Him.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells what your attitude should be in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are saved, you are a "servant" of Jesus Christ. (A servant is a person that works for another person; a good servant does whatever he is told to do without complaining.) You should do "whatever" (anything and everything) Jesus tells you to do.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today we will learn about many people who were servants of the Lord Jesus and how they helped Him in His work.

I. Jesus was Shown by John the Baptist - John 1:6-36

John the Baptist was sent by God to show the Jews that Jesus was the Son of God (1:34). He was a good witness of Jesus Christ showing the people that Jesus was the Light that provides eternal life for all who receive Him (1:6-12). John also told the people that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29). John the Baptist was a good servant for Jesus Christ. One day as he was standing with two of his disciples he saw Jesus walking by them. John then said to them, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (1:35-36). John showed Jesus to his own disciples so they would follow Him. He was willing to give his disciples to Jesus. He was sincere when he said that Jesus must increase and he must decrease.

WE: Before we can be a servant of Jesus Christ and work for Him, we need to believe that He is the Son of God. We need to believe that He came to save us from our sins, because He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. If you still have you sins, you need to give them to Jesus who will take all of them away. Then you can serve Jesus Christ with a pure heart. Be a good servant, like John the Baptist was, and do all that He says. One of His most important commands for His servants is to be a witness for Him.

II. Jesus was Sought by Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael - John 1:37-51

A. Andrew and Peter - John 1:37-42

After John the Baptist had told two of his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God, they left John and followed Jesus. When Jesus turned around and saw them following Him, He asked them what they were seeking. They called Him "Rabbi," which means "Master." This showed that they were willing to follow Jesus and obey whatever He wanted them to do. Then they asked Jesus where He was staying and they followed Him and stayed with Him that day. One of these two disciples who followed Jesus was Andrew. The first thing that Andrew did was to go home and tell his brother, Simon Peter, that he had found the

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Messiah. When Andrew brought Simon Peter to Jesus, Jesus changed his name from Simon to Cephas which means “a stone.” Peter became a good servant for Jesus.

WE: When we are saved, we must follow Jesus and treat Him as our Master. This means we will do whatever He tells us to do. You should tell your Mom and Dad and brothers and sisters that you have found Jesus, like Andrew told this to his brother, Peter. If you do, you will be serving Jesus in His work.

B. Philip - John 1:43-45

The next day Jesus saw Philip who lived in the same city (Bethsaida) as Andrew and Peter. He called out to Philip and said, “Follow Me.” As soon as Philip heard Him, he obeyed, left what he was doing and followed Jesus. He did not wait around, but obeyed immediately, as a good servant should do, and followed the Lord Jesus. Then he went and found his friend, Nathanael, and told him that he had found the promised Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

WE: We must learn to obey Jesus immediately and do what He says, if we are going to be a good servant for Him. Do not wait until next week or until you are grown up to be a servant for Jesus. Follow Jesus now and tell your friends about Him so they can be saved, too.

C. Nathanael - John 1:46-51

Nathanael heard that Jesus was from Nazareth and he doubted that He could possibly be the Messiah. He did not believe any good thing could come out of Nazareth. That city had a bad reputation. Philip simply told him “Come and see.” When Nathanael came, Jesus greeted him as a true Israelite with no deceit. Then He said that He saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him. This convinced Nathanael that Jesus was truly the Son of God. He believed on Jesus and said, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel,” and he followed Him. Jesus then promised Nathanael that he would see greater things than this in the future. Nathanael became a good servant for Jesus.

WE: We will see greater things in the future when we believe Jesus is the Son of God, receive Him as our Savior, follow Him and serve Him. Is He your Master (“Rabbi”)?

III. Jesus was Served by the Wedding Servants - John 2:1-11

The first miracle that Jesus did on earth was in the city of Cana of Galilee, close to where He grew up in Nazareth. Jesus and His disciples had been invited to a wedding and Jesus’ mother was also there. During the wedding feast the supply of wine ran out. When Jesus’ mother heard this, she came to Jesus and told Him what had happened. Then she said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Next to the house were six large stone water jars used for purifying the Jews; each could contain 20-30 gallons of water. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. They obeyed and filled them up to the very top. Then Jesus told them to dip into one of the water jars and take it to the governor (head man) of the feast for him to taste. They obeyed right away. When the governor of the wedding feast tasted the new wine that Jesus created (fresh grape juice), he was very surprised. He said it was better than what had been served first. He did not know what Jesus had done, but the servants knew.

WE: If we obey Jesus and do exactly as He tells us, we will see Jesus do great things. Will we see Him do miracles? When we tell other people that Jesus will save them, we will see Him perform the miracle of changing some evil people into godly persons by the new birth (2 Cor 5:17). That is one miracle that we are sure to see.

BE (for Action): In our story today you have heard how many people found out that Jesus was the Son of God and they began to follow Him and be His servants. Are you saved? If you are not saved, you need to be saved today. You cannot be His good servant until you are saved from your sins. If you are saved, you need to follow Jesus and do whatever He wants you to do. Then you can be His good servant, What are some things that you can do to serve Jesus this week? (Tell others what Jesus has done for you and what He can do for them, pray for others, invite others to Sunday school and church, pick up trash in the church and outside of the church, be friendly to visitors and help them find the right class, especially help visitors who are your age.) Jesus wants you to work with Him this week, so obey whatever He puts in your mind to do.