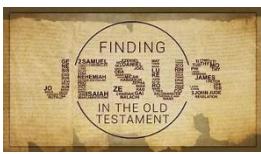


Finding Jesus In The Old Testament 2022 Spiritual Growth Campaign

Small Group Lessons

By Louie Marsh



Lesson One: Jesus is the Angel of the Lord

Open with Prayer.

Opening Question: John 1:1-2 tells us that Jesus is God and therefore is eternal. So what was he doing during all that time between creation and his becoming flesh in the New Testament? Have you ever wondered about this?

Lesson: Play Video

The Angel of the Lord:

In the Old Testament there is one Angel who stands out from all the rest. He is called the Angel of the Lord, and he appears at strategically important times and events in Israel's history.

The Jews recognized this character had a very special relationship with God. According to the Jews for Jesus (<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues/issues-v14-n06/who-is-the-messenger/>) the angel of the LORD is given the name Metatron in the Talmud, which "indicates a special relationship with God." The Jews for Jesus state: "*One meaning of meta and thronos, two Greek words, gives the sense of "one who serves behind the throne" of God. So the angel of the Lord is the primary messenger of God, the one sent by God, the one who represents God.*"

Who is this Angel of the Lord? Christians believe that he is the pre-incarnate Christ.

Below are passages from the Old Testament that show why this is a universal belief among all Christians and has been since the earliest days of the church.

1) The angel of the LORD is referred to as _____:

"⁷*The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.*" (Genesis 16:7, ESV)

"¹³*So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."* ¹⁴*Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.*" (Genesis 16:13–14, ESV)

Beer-lahai-roi Literally means: "Well of the Living One who sees me."

"¹⁰*Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.* ¹¹*But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."* ¹²*He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."*" (Genesis 22:10–12, ESV)

2) The angel of the LORD appears not as a representative of God but as _____:

"²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed." (Exodus 3:2, ESV)

"⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." "⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:4-6, ESV)

3) The Angel of the LORD has the _____.

"¹⁶Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt," (Exodus 3:16, ESV)

4) He accepts _____.

"³¹Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face." (Numbers 22:31, ESV)

"¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (Genesis 22:13–14, ESV)

5) Those to whom He appears _____ Him as God.

"¹³So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." (Genesis 16:13, ESV)

In summary, the angel of the LORD who bears the qualities of the LORD is the LORD. He has defined Himself that way.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Does it seem odd to you that the pre-incarnate Christ would be called an angel when he is in fact not an angel but God?
- 2) Hagar and others clearly and immediately recognized the Angel of the Lord as God. How did they do that?
- 3) Does finding Christ in the Old Testament strengthen your faith? What does that tell us about God having a plan for the ages?
- 4) How do all these stories of Christ appearing to people impact you? Would you like him to appear to you too? Do these stories help you understand why he does or doesn't appear to people?
- 5) Does knowing that Christ is in the Old Testament make you more excited about reading and studying it?

Close In Prayer



Lesson Two: Jesus is the Passover Lamb

Open with Prayer.

Opening Question: How important do you think symbols are? Some examples are the cross in a church, or a Nazi flag, or the “peace symbol.” How do symbols impact our thinking and actions?

Lesson: Play Video

When we talk about Jesus being the Passover Lamb we don't mean he was actually the animal being sacrificed and eaten. We mean that the Passover Lamb is symbolic of the sacrifice Christ would make.

There's an old term, “*type*” that is sometimes used. People say the Passover Lamb, or Noah's Ark, are *types of Christ*. That means symbolic foreshadowing of Jesus and what he would do.

1) God gave _____ instructions about sacrificing the Passover Lamb.

“⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts...⁴⁶It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones.” (Exodus 12:5-9, 46, ESV)

- Its blood was to be put on the lintel and doorposts to _____.

“²²Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.” (Exodus 12:22–23, ESV)

- This is symbolic of our being _____ by Christ.

“²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29, ESV)

- No bones were to be broken, none of Christ's bones were _____ either.

“³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,

they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.” (John 19:31–34, ESV)

2) Jesus is called the _____ several times in the New Testament.

“⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7, ESV)

“¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1 Peter 1:18–19, ESV)

“⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... (Revelation 5:6, ESV)

3) Jesus died and rose again not only to forgive us but to set us free from _____.

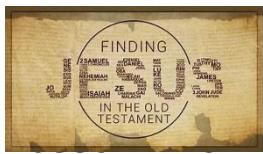
“¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:12–14, ESV)

In summary, the Passover Lamb symbolizes the full and free forgiveness that Jesus, the One perfect sacrifice for sin, gives to those who put their faith in him.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) The symbolism of Jesus as the Passover Lamb was clearly important to the New Testament writers. How does it strike you? Does this deepen your appreciation and understanding of Jesus sacrifice on the cross? If so how?
- 2) Not breaking the bones of the Lamb seems like such an unimportant detail, yet there is. What does this tell you about how God viewed the sacrifice of Christ? Why would such detail be important enough to stress like this?
- 3) Each year at Passover another Lamb is killed and eaten. But Jesus died once and for all. What does this contrast tell us about the power and effectiveness of Jesus death, burial and resurrection?
- 4) How would you define dead works? Do you see them as a problem in the modern church? Do you find them to be a problem in your own life? How can we shake free of them, yet continue to serve the Lord? (Check out my podcast, Disciple Up, Episode 231, on this topic.)
- 5) Christians often say they don't *feel* forgiven when they know Scripture says they *are* forgiven. Which is more important – to *feel* forgiven or to *be* forgiven? Can we do anything to help our feelings conform more closely to what the Word of God says? (More on this next week!)
- 6) How often do you take the time to thank God for your forgiveness?

Close In Prayer



Lesson Three: Jesus is the Scape Goat

Open with Prayer.

Opening Question: If you could send your guilt, shame and sin somewhere far away to symbolize your freedom from it, where would you send it and why?

Lesson: Play Video

Last week we talked a bit about feeling guilty even after asking God to forgive you. This week we look at how God has separated us from our sin both symbolically and in reality.

1) God commanded one goat to be sacrificed & one goat to be sent into the _____.

"⁷Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁸And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. ⁹And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, ¹⁰but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel." (Leviticus 16:7–10, ESV)

- This goat was unclean, for it symbolically carried Israel's _____.

"²⁶And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp." (Leviticus 16:26, ESV)

2) This goat is called the _____, for he symbolizes the removal of our guilt.

"¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:10–12, ESV)

3) God calls upon all believers to _____ with this truth until it becomes real to us.

"¹⁸Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, ESV)

- God calls us to argue our case until our hearts find _____ in Him.

"²⁶Put me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth your case, that you may be proved right." (Isaiah 43:26, ESV)

"¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth..." (Jeremiah 15:18–19a, ESV)

4) God promises over & over again the Bible that when we are forgiven our guilt is _____.

“¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.” (Micah 7:19, ESV)

5) This truth finds its ultimate form in Christ, who has set us free from all _____.

“¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1–2, ESV)

“²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29, ESV)

6) Hebrews chapter 10 makes it clear – in Christ alone can I find _____

“¹For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.” (Hebrews 10:1, ESV)

“¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:12–14, ESV)

“¹⁷then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.” (Hebrews 10:17–18, ESV)

Discussion Questions:

1) The Scape Goat hadn't sinned yet was exiled in the desert carrying Israel's sins. Jesus didn't sin, yet He died on the Cross as our forgiver and scape goat. Is that fair? Do we even want God to be fair with us? What would happen to you if God were fair?

2) The Scape Goat took Israel's sins out into the wilderness and was never seen again. How far away does God remove our sins from us?

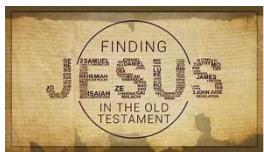
3) God uses different ways of expressing our freedom from guilt. As far as east is from the west, dumped into the bottom of the sea, forgotten, etc. Why does he use so many metaphors for this? Which one do you find most helpful?

4) If I doubt my forgiveness, or just don't feel forgiven, what should I do? How does one argue or debate, or disagree with God? Can you think of any Biblical examples of this?

5) What are the end results or benefits of knowing that you are forgiven? How does being free from all condemnation change your life? Do you talk, feel, think and act differently? Is so how?

6) As we move through these symbols of Christ in the Old Testament (and we're only doing a few, there are many more we don't have time to touch on) is this changing your view of the Old Testament? Are you surprised to see how detailed God's plan of salvation really is?

Close In Prayer



Lesson Four: Jesus is Noah's Ark

Open with Prayer.

Opening Question: If you're in a bad situation what do you do? Where do you look for a way out? How do you know whether or not the way you've chosen is the way God wants you go?

Lesson: Play Video

1) The Ark was built to save a remnant from _____:

"¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him." (Genesis 6:17–22, ESV)

2) Noah's Ark proves to us that everyone will be held _____:

"⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." (Hebrews 11:7, ESV)

- Noah responded to God in _____ the world didn't & so condemned itself.

"⁵if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;" (2 Peter 2:5, ESV)

3) Noah's Ark also shows us that God always provides _____ to those who have faith.

"²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him." (1 Peter 3:20–22, ESV)

- Notice how Peter ties _____ into this – pointing to Christ as our Ark of salvation.

4) History will repeat itself, and the days of Noah will come again.

"³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when

Noah entered the ark,³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:37–39, ESV)

5) Ways in which Noah’s Ark symbolizes our salvation thru _____:

- The Ark had one door, Jesus is the _____ to be saved.

“¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.” (Genesis 7:16, ESV)

“⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9, ESV)

- Salvation came to those within the Ark, our salvation comes only to those _____.

“¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

- Both the Ark and Christ bring _____ to the world.

“¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16–17, ESV)

Discussion Questions:

1) Does the connection between Noah’s Ark & Jesus give added weight to the historical validity of Noah’s flood? Would it be inconsistent to not believe in the flood & Ark but to believe in Jesus?

2) How does the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus save us from God’s judgement?

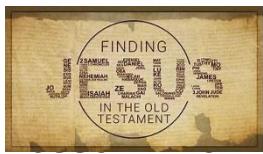
3) Do you think the parallel of one door in the Ark and Jesus being the one door to salvation is legitimate or does it feel like we’re stretching things a bit?

4) Noah needed faith to be saved from the flood and we need faith to be saved as well. Why does God put such a high value on faith? How would you define what faith is?

5) Peter said, “*Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you...*” What did he mean by that? Are we saved by baptism? Do we get baptized because we’re saved? Is baptism a part of what we usually call “accepting Christ?”

6) Are we living “in the days of Noah” today?

Close In Prayer



Lesson Five: Jesus is the Manna from Heaven

Open with Prayer.

Opening Question: Survival is about having what you need and doing without all the non-essentials in my life. So how essential is God to you? Can you go a day without praying? Or reading the Bible? Can you live without Jesus? Do these questions hinge on what we call living?

Lesson: Play Video

1) God originally gave manna to keep Israel from _____ in the wilderness.

"⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."" (Exodus 16:4–5, ESV)

2) God gave it to them on a _____ basis (twice for the Sabbath)

"¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" (Exodus 16:15–16, ESV)

3) The Israelites lacked faith and _____ it.

"¹⁹And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted." (Exodus 16:19–21, ESV)

4) Jesus said God gives the bread from heaven, and it gives _____.

"³²Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." (John 6:32–34, ESV)

- Jesus again points to the _____ of this heavenly bread.

5) Then he made the startling claim that _____!

"³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the

will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:34–40, ESV)

6) Jesus makes it clear he's talking about _____ – eternal - life.

“⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (John 6:48–51, ESV)

- He then ties this to the _____ – which he would introduce later.

“⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” (John 6:53–58, ESV)

7) Finally Jesus promises _____ manna to those who overcome.

“¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.” (Revelation 2:17, ESV)

Questions:

- 1) The Hebrews asked, “What is it?” Which is a good question! What was the original manna?
- 2) God gave the manna freely (by grace) but also required faith from the Israelites. Some of them lacked faith and tried hoarding it. That didn't go so well. Do you find it hard to trust God in life or death situations like this? Having seen so many miracles why didn't they trust God? Why don't we?
- 3) How offensive do you think Jesus' claim to be the bread of life was to his original listeners? How much more offensive was his statement about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? Why did Jesus so often use metaphors that were so offensive to his audience?
- 4) In John 6:52 the Jews took Jesus literally and were grossed out. In John 6:66 (Oh no! The number of the Beast!!!) many quit following him because of what he said. Do you think Jesus did this to test his followers? To weed out those who were just along for the excitement of all the miracles?
- 5) What does eating Jesus flesh or drinking his blood symbolize? Is this something spiritual that we Christians do every day?
- 6) How does this metaphor relate to the Lord's Supper? If the bread and the cup are simply symbols, then exactly what are we symbolically doing each Sunday when we take the Lord's Supper together?
- 7) What the heck is the hidden manna? Does Hebrews 9:4 help?

Close In Prayer