



A Course for Lutheran Early Childhood Educators



pswcic.org

Discussion Guide - Session 1 Jesus and Scripture



Session 1: Jesus and Scripture

Session Objectives:

1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18

Opening Prayer:

Lord God, there are a lot of ideas floating around about who You are and what we have to do to be right with You. Lead me to Your truth. Heavenly Father, the Christian church has long taught the Holy Bible is Your Word to us. Even so, many voices claim it's full of errors and contradictions. Teach me how to think of the Bible, so I may know where to find Your truth. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lutheran History:

Martin Luther's father wanted him to become a lawyer, so he went to law school and studied hard. Legend has it that one night as he was walking home he was caught in a thunderstorm and feared for his safety. He hid under a tree and promised that he would become a monk if God spared his life. Martin Luther was spared, and he kept his promise and went on to serve as a monk, a priest, and a theology professor. As he encountered God's Word, Martin Luther discovered that the Medieval Church had fallen away from Biblical teachings. He desired to have



an intellectual and theological discussion on the matter, so he posted 95 statements for consideration to the door of the church in Wittenberg Germany. At the time he had no desire to break away from the church or to cause an insurrection within Christendom. He did, however, have serious concerns that the church was teaching errors such as the need to do good works to earn God's favor and the purchasing of forgiveness through the sale of indulgences. His statements, known as the Ninety-Five Thesis, spread rapidly through the area thanks to the printing press and Luther's ideas were widely circulated. In the years after numerous debates and meetings took place at which a number of Confessions (or echoes of Scripture) were written, and many of them were gathered together into what was called the Book of Concord (an exposition and defense of the Word of God). The Book of Concord contained Luther's Large and Small Catechisms as well as the Augsburg Confession, the Formula of Concord and many other documents. In the end, a new branch of Christianity developed taking on Luther's name although the teachings were not Luther's but straight from the Word of God.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believes, teaches and confesses that in Christ alone is there salvation-by grace alone, through faith alone, on the basis of Scripture alone. To share this message with the world is the mission of the church and the reason for its existence (Nafzger).

Read:

- John 20:30-31
- Luke 24:25-27; 44-45
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Psalm 119:105
- John 1
- 1 John 1
- Romans 10:17
- 2 Peter 1:20-21

Reflect:

- What is the main purpose of the Bible? (John 20:30-31 & Luke 24:25-27; 44-45)
- What does God's Word say about Scripture? (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
- What happens when God's Word is spoken? (Isaiah 55:10-11)



- What happens when God's Word is heard? (Romans 10:17)
- One of the most-loved verses in the Bible is John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* What relation might the simple, understandable quality of this verse have with the deep love so many people have toward it?
- How do the children and families in your center hear God's Word?

Respond:

- Take a moment to list ways that you currently spend time in God's Word personally; with your classroom (for teachers); with your staff (for directors); and with your families.
- Make goals with specific timeframes and activities to increase your personal time in the Word, your student/staff time in the Word, and time for the families you serve in the Word.
- Share your list and goals with your group. As you share with your group, add to your list.

**Use the session 1 smart goals exercise pdf to assist you in documenting your response.*

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word in the Holy Bible. Strengthen my confidence in that perfect revelation, so I may always put my faith in Jesus Christ my Savior. I pray in His name. Amen.

Additional Resources:

For further study on *Why Jesus*:

<https://www.lhm.org/godconnects/topicguide.asp?ID=24010>

For further study on *Why the Bible*:

<https://www.lhm.org/godconnects/topicguide.asp?ID=24045>

To read the Bible online or to do detailed searches, go to

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

How We Got the Bible - video Bible study:

<http://www.lhm.org/men/studydetail.asp?id=12754>



The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt:
<http://www.lhm.org/men/studydetail.asp?id=16902>

The Bible—What? Where? Why? booklet:
<http://www.lhm.org/godconnects/diggingdeeper.asp#2.15>

