



The Story of God | Life of Jesus

Life of Jesus | Story

Story from... Mark 2-5 & 21; Luke 3; John 1

The people of Israel were still waiting and hoping for their coming Messiah. They had been under the control of other nations for hundreds of years, and hoped that the Messiah would come soon and rule as their king.

God sent a messenger named John to tell people to get ready because the Messiah was coming soon. John was a distant cousin of Jesus, born just six months before him. He was a rugged man who lived in the wilderness, ate locusts and wild honey, and wore clothes made out of camel hair.

John boldly challenged the Jews, *“Don’t just say that you love God—prove it with your life. Turn from your sins and turn to God!”*

He became known as John the Baptizer as he dunked those who had confessed their sins in the Jordan River. Baptism was a symbol of being washed clean from your sins and choosing a new way of living.

One day John was teaching and baptizing people in the Jordan River and Jesus came to him to be baptized. When John looked up and saw him he said, “Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” God revealed to John that Jesus was the Messiah he had been waiting for.

Soon after, Jesus began teaching people in ways they had never heard before - he said, “turn from your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of God has come”. He drew many followers and crowds swarmed him wherever he went. He spent most of his time with a few close followers called disciples, showing them how to live in the ways of God.

Jesus lived a most remarkable life – a life lived without ever sinning. He was faced with the same temptations to rebel against God as all men before him had, but he always chose to obey his father and to live in his ways.

Jesus also performed miracles among the people. His teaching and miracles concerned the Jewish leaders; they were not comfortable with some of Jesus unusual methods.

Crowds surrounded him everywhere he went. Once, when Jesus was teaching in a house where he was staying, so many people came to hear him that the house was completely packed - not one more person could get inside. Four men were trying to bring their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, believing he would heal him. But the only way they could get him in the house was to dig through the clay roof and lower him down! Jesus was impressed with their efforts and faith. He told the paralyzed man, *"Don't worry, your sins are forgiven."*

The religious leaders became upset and thought, *"Who but God can forgive sins?"* But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to them, *"Would you rather I would have said to this man 'your sins are forgiven' or 'pick up your mat and walk'?"*

I will prove to you that I have the authority to forgive sins." Then Jesus told the paralyzed man, *"Now, get up take your mat and walk home - you are healed."*

The man was no longer paralyzed; he jumped up and pushed his way out the door. Everyone there was amazed saying, *"We've never seen anything like this before!"*

Another time, Jesus was exhausted after teaching all day. He suggested that he and the disciples go to the other side of the sea. As they took off, Jesus went to the back of the boat and fell asleep.

A fierce storm came up suddenly. No matter how hard they tried, the disciples couldn't keep the boat from filling with water. When it became obvious to them that they were going to sink, they woke Jesus up in a panic and said, *"teacher, don't you care if we drown?!"*

Jesus stood up, and said to the wind and waves, *"Quiet, be still now."* And the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm. Jesus asked them, *"Why are you still afraid? Don't you believe in me yet?"*

When the disciples saw this they looked at each other and said, *"Who is this man that even the wind and the waves obey him?"*

(you may want to pause here and read the first set of questions)

When Jesus went back across to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. A leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, came and fell down before him, pleading with him to heal his little daughter. *"She is about to die,"* he said in desperation. *"Please come and place your hands on her; heal her so she can live."* Jesus went with him, and the crowd followed behind.

Then a group of friends arrived from Jairus's home with the message, *"Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now."*

But Jesus ignored their comments and said to Jairus, *"Don't be afraid. Just trust me."*

When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw the people outside the house wailing and crying. Jesus asked them, *"Why are you crying? The girl is not dead, she's only asleep."*

The crowd laughed at him, but he told them all to go outside. Then he took the girl's father and mother and three of his disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, he said to her, *"Get up, little girl!"* And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! Jesus said not to tell anyone what had happened, and told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were absolutely amazed!

I've told you a lot so far. Let me ask a few questions...

Life of Jesus | Dialogue

Remember this is a dialog, not a quiz. The "answers" below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.

Were the religious leaders correct when they said, "no one can forgive sins except God?" Why or why not?

God created humans and he alone can forgive their sins and accept them into a close relationship with him.

How did Jesus know what they were thinking?

Are any of us able to know what people are thinking?

God alone knows all things. We can't hide anything from him.

Then who must Jesus be if he knows the hearts of people? God!

Who made the wind and the waves? God!

Can you control the wind? The waves?

In what other stories so far have we heard about wind and water?

Creation story, God separated the waters to create dry land. Noah's ark story. Also when Israel crossed the Red Sea and God brought a strong east wind to open the sea and returned it by bringing a strong west wind in order to kill the army of Pharaoh.

Who controls nature (the wind and the waves)?

God alone!

Why do you think that Jesus performed miracles?

Did people always believe in Jesus after seeing him perform miracles?

Why or why not?

From the stories, what has Jesus shown that he has power over?

He knows the thoughts of people. He has control over people's health/bodies

He has the authority to forgive sins. He has power over nature

Where have we seen power like this in the stories before?

Who must Jesus be?

God!

(questions for the second half of the story)

Who gave man his life?

God. He breathed his life and breath into man.

Did God create humans to live forever?

Yes! Before humans rebelled they lived close to God and could eat from the Tree of Life.

Why do people die?

The results of sin.

Who do you think has the power to raise people from the dead?

God!

If Jesus knows all things, and has power over the creation, and has authority over nature, and can raise the dead back to life, then who do you think he is?

God!

Do you believe what the Stories from the Bible are saying about Jesus?

Do you believe he is God?

Life of Jesus | Additional Dialogue

What do you wonder about from the stories today?

What amazes you the most about Jesus?

What miracle do you think would have amazed you the most?

How should we respond to Jesus today?