

We Believe in Jesus

Lesson 1

The Redeemer

Lesson Guide



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Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or manuscript versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:25)

The doctrine of Christ is known as Christology.

Jesus redeems sinners from sin and ensures the final restoration of creation for our enjoyment and for the glory of his Father.

II. Eternity (2:50)

The Second Person of the Trinity, whom we know as Jesus Christ, is our eternal God.

A. Divinity (4:21)

Jesus has been God from all eternity.

1. Explicit Statements (5:28)

- My God: John 20:28
- Our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Titus 2:13
- Our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Peter 1:1
- The true God and eternal life: 1 John 5:20
- The Word was God: John 1:1

2. Old Testament (6:50)

New Testament writers identify Jesus as God by equating him with Yahweh, the Lord of the Old Testament.

3. Divine Attributes (8:33)

New Testament authors ascribed divine attributes to Jesus.

Jesus wields God's infinite creative and sustaining power.

B. Trinity (10:16)

God is three in one sense and one in another sense.

Person: distinct, self-aware personality

Essence: fundamental nature; substance

1. Ontological (12:55)

Definition: Relating to being

All three of God's persons possess the same divine attributes.

The Son shares the same divine essence with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

2. **Economic (14:43)**

Definition: Relating to household management

Within their economic relationships:

- The Son submits to the will of the Father and has authority over the Holy Spirit.

- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit always agree.

C. **Counsel (17:37)**

Eternal Counsel: God's plans for the universe which were set before his work of creation.

Foreknowledge: God's knowledge, prior to creation, of events that would occur in the course of history.

Purpose: God created the universe in order to display and increase his glory through his kingdom in Christ.

Covenant of Redemption: God's eternal decree regarding his glorious kingdom.

III. Creation (25:28)

The period of creation begins with the creation week and ends with humanity's fall into sin and expulsion from the Garden of Eden

A. Creation Week (26:08)

The Son was at the Father's side during creation, and the Father created the world through him.

God ordered and filled the universe in ways that pleased him.

- First three days of creation:
 - Formed the world
 - Separated light from darkness
 - Separated sky from sea
 - Separated dry land from water
 - Created vegetation

- Second three days of creation:
 - Created the sun, moon and stars
 - Assigned the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night
 - Created the fish and other creatures of the sea
 - Created the birds to inhabit the air
 - Created all the animals that live on the earth
 - Created humanity to fill the earth and rule over all the creatures

God created the universe to be his special kingdom.

God the Son was the king that would inherit ownership and rule over the entire creation.

B. Fall of Humanity (38:39)

Adam and Eve trusted the words of the serpent and acted in disbelief toward God.

God cursed Adam, Eve and the serpent.

God the Son was the promised Redeemer that would save humanity.

1. Personal Consequences (40:29)

- Broken fellowship between God and human beings
- Humanity bears the guilt of Adam's sin
- Depravity: Sin's corruption of human nature
- Suffering, Pain, and Death

These curses hindered Adam and Eve from fulfilling the tasks God had assigned to them.

If we are to fulfill God's purposes for humanity, we need a Redeemer.

2. **Universal Consequences (54:57)**

- Delay of God's kingdom

Humanity's fall into sin delayed the proper cultivation of the world and our rule over it.

- Creation is subject to futility

Creation is no longer capable of becoming the perfect world that God intended.

3. **Hope for Humanity (1:01:55)**

God continued to keep humanity at the center of his work.

God promised to send a Redeemer.

IV. Redemption (1:04:42)

The Father appointed his Son as the Redeemer that would bring salvation to sinners and restore the entire created world

A. Motive (1:06:16)

The Son was motivated by love for God, love for creation and love for human beings.

1. Trinity (1:07:58)

God's redeeming love for human beings is an aspect of the Father's love for the Son.

Our redemption is a natural result of the love within the Trinity.

2. Creation (1:11:13)

God's love for creation motivated the Son's role in redemption.

B. Promises (1:15:24)

God's promises are immutable.

Covenant of Redemption: The Trinity promised to redeem fallen humanity

Covenant of Grace: Arrangement made between the Father and the Son and redeemed humanity

- Adamic Covenant: Redemption was first offered to humanity

Noahic Covenant: Promise to preserve humanity until the Son's redeeming work was complete

- Abrahamic Covenant: Promise that one of Abraham's descendants would be the Redeemer
- Mosaic Covenant: Institution of a sacrificial system
- Davidic Covenant: Promise that the Redeemer would descend from David and bring God's kingdom to earth
- New Covenant: The work of redemption was and is being accomplished

C. Work (1:23:04)

The Son accomplished redemption through his redeeming work.

1. Inauguration of Kingdom (1:23:20)

God's people longed for the day when God would bring his kingdom to earth.

Jesus brought the kingdom of God to earth in his day.

We're still waiting for Jesus to consummate the kingdom of God.

2. Obedience (1:27:00)

Jesus' role as Redeemer included succeeding where Adam failed.

Passive Obedience: Jesus' submission to a life of humiliation, suffering, and crucifixion

- Jesus was our substitute.
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross frees us from God's just condemnation.

Active Obedience: Jesus' life of obedience to everything the Father commanded.

- Jesus perfectly kept God's law.
- Forensic righteousness: Jesus' righteous obedience imputed to us.
- God rewards us with salvation on the basis of Jesus' merit.

3. Resurrection (1:31:43)

Jesus conquered death and secured everlasting life for his people.

Jesus guaranteed that all who believe in him will also be resurrected.

4. Ascension (1:32:46)

After his resurrection, Jesus was taken bodily into heaven.

- Jesus ascended into heaven to be enthroned as king.
- Jesus is mediating and interceding for his people.
- Jesus ministers before the Father's throne, ensuring that the ransom he paid on the cross is applied to our lives continuously.

V. Consummation (1:37:02)

The events surrounding Jesus' future return and the final stage of our salvation:

- the destruction of God's enemies
- the blessing of his people
- the renewal of creation

A. Jesus' Return (1:37:55)

- Personal and Physical: Jesus will return in the same way he ascended into heaven.
- Public and Visible: Everyone will see Jesus.
- Triumphant: Jesus will return as a powerful conqueror.
- Sudden: The date of Jesus' return is known only by the Father.

B. Events (1:40:01)**1. General Resurrection (1:40:19)**

Everyone that has ever died will be resurrected.

- Believers' bodies will be free from corruption and presence of sin.
- Bodies of unbelievers will continue to be plagued by the effects of sin.

2. Last Judgment (1:42:22)

Jesus will destroy all his enemies and bless all his faithful people.

Every human being will be judged.

3. Renewal of Creation (1:45:45)

Jesus will purge and renew creation.

All creation will be restored to God's original plan.

C. Results (1:50:47)

Jesus' return will be the final accomplishment of God's purpose for creation.

1. Glory of God (1:53:49)

All humanity will acknowledge Jesus' rule and bow to his authority.

God's benevolence will bring him glory.

Loyalty will be rewarded.

3. What is God's eternal counsel regarding Christ?

4. What were the roles of God the Father and God the Son during the creation week?

5. How did humanity fall into sin?

6. What motivated Jesus to redeem sinners?

7. Discuss the divine promises that made redemption certain.

8. What work did Jesus do to accomplish redemption for sinners?

11. What will be the results of Jesus' return?

Application Questions

1. How does knowing that Jesus is eternally God impact the way you read the Bible?
2. How does understanding the roles of each member of the Trinity help us in evangelism?
3. What comfort and encouragement do you find in God's eternal plan of salvation?
4. What practical implications can we draw from knowing that the purpose of creation is to serve as God's special kingdom to display his glory?
5. How can understanding God's foreknowledge comfort you when things in life surprise you?
6. Why do you need Jesus to be your Redeemer?
7. What are specific ways your life has been changed since you received Jesus' redemption?
8. What ministries are you currently engaged in and how are they helping to share Jesus with unbelievers?
9. How should we approach difficult relationships knowing that in the consummation all relationships will be restored?
10. How should we view and treat creation now, knowing that God will renew it when Christ returns?
11. What are some specific ways you can respond in your present circumstances to the final redemption you will receive?
12. What are some things you look forward to in the consummation?
13. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

Glossary

Abrahamic administration – Administration during the time of God’s covenant with Abraham in which God assigned special privileges and obligations to Abraham’s family and promised that one of his descendants would be the Redeemer

active obedience – Jesus’ obedience to everything the Father commanded

Adam – The first man; husband of Eve; man with whom God made the covenant of foundations in which humanity was to fill and subdue the earth

Adamic administration – Administration during the time of God’s covenant with Adam in which God first offered redemption to humanity in Genesis 3:15

ascension – Event forty days after the resurrection in which Jesus was taken up bodily into heaven in full view of his apostles

Christology – The study and doctrine of the person and work of Jesus Christ

Consummation – Third and final stage of inaugurated eschatology when Christ will return and fulfill God's ultimate purpose for all of history

covenant of grace – The covenant relationship God established with humanity after our fall into sin that provides forgiveness and redemption on the basis of God’s mercy in Christ

covenant of redemption – Covenant in which the persons of the Godhead entered into a solemn arrangement to secure redemption and apply it to fallen creation, especially to fallen humanity

Davidic administration – Administration during the time of God’s covenant with David in which God promised that the Redeemer would descend from David; last administration of the Old Testament period

Day of the Lord – Technical expression (Hebrew: “*yom Yahweh*”) referring to the ultimate defeat and judgment of God’s enemies and to the great battle that will take place when God’s people are restored to the land

depravity – The state of moral corruption due to humanity's fall into sin

divine attributes – The perfections of God’s essence revealed through a variety of historical manifestations; attributes that only God can possess

economic – Term meaning "relating to household management"; used when speaking of how the three persons of the Trinity relate to each other

essence of God – The unchanging reality that underlies all of God’s outward, changing manifestations; the fundamental nature or substance of which God consists

eternal counsel – God's eternal plan for the universe, established before his work of creation

eternal decree – Another term for “eternal counsel”; God's eternal plan for the universe, established before his work of creation

Fall, the – The events from the serpent’s temptation through God’s judgment when Adam and Eve’s sin caused humanity to fall out of God’s favor and blessings

first gospel – Also known as *proto-euangelion*; theological term for the first promise of redemption found in Genesis 3:15

foreknowledge – God’s knowledge, prior to creation, of events that would occur in the course of history

forensic righteousness – Jesus’ righteous obedience imputed to us

general resurrection – The resurrection of all people in order to face God's final judgment when Christ returns in glory

immutable – Term meaning "unchanging"; used to express the unchanging nature of God's character and perfections

inauguration – First stage in inaugurated eschatology; refers to Christ's first coming and the ministries of his apostles and prophets

last judgment – Also called final judgment; the eschatological event when God will formally declare the guilt of his enemies and pronounce their everlasting punishment, and formally declare the innocence of those who are in Christ and pronounce their everlasting rewards

Mosaic administration – Administration during the time of God's covenant with Moses in which God instituted the sacrificial system and gave Israel the Law

new covenant – The covenant of fulfillment in Christ; first mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31

New Jerusalem – The capital city and centerpiece of the new creation where God will establish his heavenly throne and manifest his glory to his people

Noahic administration – Administration during God's covenant with Noah in which God assured nature's stability

ontological – Term meaning "related to being"; used to refer to the fact that all three persons of the Trinity possess the same divine attributes and essence

passive obedience – Jesus' submission to a life of humiliation and suffering, culminating in his crucifixion

proto-euangelion/protoevangelion – Theological term for the "first gospel" or the first promise of redemption found in Genesis 3:15

Trinity – Theological term used to express the fact that God is one essence in three persons

Yahweh – Hebrew name for God that comes from the phrase, "I Am that I Am"; often translated "LORD"