

# Jesus' Life

## Lesson 5



**Scripture:** Matthew–John  
**Bible Memory:** John 3:16, 17  
**Focus:** ♥ God sent salvation.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

By teaching preteens about God, you're living a life that reflects your thankfulness for God's goodness, grace, and salvation. By commending God to the next generation (see Psalm 145:4), you're helping preteens know about and understand God's plan and His amazing love—so they will want to be part of God's kingdom too.

## Lesson 5 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b>            Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>explore people and events in Jesus' life.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b>            People and Events</p> <p> <b>Option</b>            Bible Five-O</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Bible Five-O Game Card and Bible Five-O Questions printable files</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• roll paper, markers, Bibles, timer, reusable adhesive</li> <li>• pencils, small game markers</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b>            Use these activities to help students <i>understand that God sent salvation through Jesus.</i></p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b>            Matthew–John</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b>            John 3:16, 17</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 6</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 5 and How Did We Get the Bible? printable files</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, pencils</li> <li>• reusable adhesive, Bibles</li> <li>• various Bible translations and paraphrases</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b>            Use one of these activities to help students <i>realize that God sent the salvation He had prepared for in the first six eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b>            The Preparation Ends</p> <p> <b>Option</b>            Prophecies Fulfilled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Prophecies Fulfilled printable file, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, pencils</li> <li>• scissors, Bibles</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b>            Use one of these activities to help students <i>show thanks for and tell others about God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b>            Express Your Thanks!</p> <p> <b>Option</b>            STONE Remembrance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small stones, crayons, index cards, pencils, markers, quick-drying craft glue</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **explore people and events in Jesus' life.**

### Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step People and Events

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a length of roll paper and markers. Tell one team to label its paper "People in Jesus' Life." Tell the other team to label its paper "Events in Jesus' Life." SAY: **As a group, think about either the people in Jesus' life or the events in His life. Come up with as many as you can, and write them on your paper. You can have several people writing on your paper at a time.** Tell preteens that they can use their Bibles and look on the Bible time lines for ideas. Give them four or five minutes to work; then call time. Display the papers where everyone can see them, and read what the teams wrote. See which team came up with the most items.

ASK: **For you, which event in Jesus' life is the most unusual? interesting?**

Accept responses.

**Of all the people whom Jesus interacted with, who would you have liked to be? Why?**

SAY: **It would have been awesome to have lived when Jesus did and to have known Him! But it's definitely great to live now because we know that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth!**

### Option Bible Five-O

Distribute the Bible Five-O Game Cards. Have preteens prepare their cards by filling the squares with names of the people, places, and things listed beside the game board. As questions are asked and answered, game markers are to be placed on squares where correct answers have been written. The first student to have five game markers in a row should call out "Bible Five-O." Have students clear off their cards between rounds of the game. Continue down the list of questions until all questions have been asked.

ASK: **Which miracle of Jesus do you think was the most amazing? Why?**

Accept responses.

**For you, which event in Jesus' life is the most unusual? interesting? Of all the people who Jesus interacted with, who would you have liked to be? Why?**

SAY: **It would have been awesome to have lived when Jesus did and to have known Him! But it's definitely great to live now because we know that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth!**


## Focus

- ♥ God sent salvation.

### Materials

2 lengths of roll paper (or 2 large sheets of paper), markers, Bibles, *Resources* sheets 1-4, timer, reusable adhesive



 If you have some preteens who struggle with reading and writing, consider assigning roles: writers, Bible readers, those who look on the time lines, etc.

### Materials

copies of *Resources* CD Bible Five-O Game Card (1 per student) and Bible Five-O Questions printable files, pencils, small game markers (coins, buttons, paper clips)



### Teaching Tip

If you have preteens who would be unsure about answering the questions, let students pair up to play the game.

## Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **understand that God sent salvation through Jesus.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

Events from Jesus' Life, the seventh era of Bible history, are described in detail by four men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew, Mark, and Luke report many of the same events and are referred to as the synoptic Gospels, meaning "seeing together." John's account is different in content.

The Bible gives no record of the childhood of Jesus beyond His birth (Matthew 1, 2; Luke 2), except that He grew up in Nazareth and visited the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:39-52). Jesus' ministry lends itself to division into three one-year periods and a final period of a few months. During His first year, Jesus was baptized and tempted. He performed His first miracle, talked with Nicodemus, and converted the woman at the well of Samaria.

Jesus' second year was a year of popularity. Jesus began His first preaching tour through Galilee, called 12 apostles, and preached the Sermon on the Mount. During this same year, He traveled a second time through Galilee, calmed a storm, and raised Jairus's daughter. The third year of Jesus' ministry was characterized by increasing opposition. Jesus fed the multitudes, walked on water, and heard Peter's good confession. During this year, Jesus was transfigured. His attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles was part of His later Judean ministry.

During the final weeks of Jesus' life, Jesus made His last trip to Jerusalem, raised Lazarus from the dead, blessed the little children, and was anointed in Bethany. During His final week on earth, Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem, cleansed the temple, instituted the Lord's Supper, and prayed in Gethsemane. Jesus was betrayed by Judas; arrested, tried, and crucified; and buried by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. During a 40 day period following His resurrection, Jesus appeared at least 11 times to individuals and groups of believers before ascending to His Father. Jesus' life was devoted to bringing God's salvation to people.

### Materials

Activities for lesson 5, Bibles, pencils, Resources sheets 1-4



### Answers

1=save, sins  
2=Savior, Messiah  
3=Son, Holy Spirit  
4=loved, save  
5=storms, Son  
6=Messiah, Son  
7=resurrection, life  
8=Jesus, Son  
9=sins, cross  
10=hope, inheritance

## Bible Exploration Matthew–John

Distribute the leaflets and have students turn to the activity Salvation Is Sent. Divide the class into pairs. Assign each pair one or more of the questions to complete. Tell students to work together to read their questions and the Scriptures listed. When each pair has come up with its answers, students should write the answers in their leaflets.

Call preteens' attention to the fifth and sixth Bible time lines. SAY: **Jesus is the highlight of God's plan for our salvation. Every part of God's plan points to Jesus. Every person or event in Bible history either points ahead to Jesus, tells about Jesus, or points back to Him. Jesus is the center of God's plan of salvation.** Point to the first icon on the time line. **John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus. When John grew up, he prepared the way for Jesus.** Have those with questions 1 and 2 read the questions, filling in the blanks. See the narrow column for answers.

SAY: **Sometime following Jesus' birth, the Magi visited Him, bringing gifts to worship Him. At age 12, Jesus was with teachers in the temple, asking and answering questions. He knew already that He needed to be in His Father's house.** Have those with question 3 read the question, filling in the blanks. **Following this, Satan tempted Jesus to sin. But Jesus**

**didn't give in, and did not sin.** Have those with questions 4 and 5 read their question, filling in the blanks. **Jesus also taught people. He gave a Sermon on the Mount and told many parables.**

Have those with question 6 read the question, filling in the blanks. SAY: **Sometime after Peter's confession, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain and was transfigured before them. Long-dead Old Testament men Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.** Have those with question 7 read the question, filling in the blanks.

SAY: **Throughout His time on earth, Jesus taught people about God and His kingdom. One thing He taught was what the greatest commandments were—to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Later in His ministry, Jesus celebrated Passover with His followers. This included what we now call the Lord's Supper. Not long after that, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified on the cross.** Have those with questions 8–10 read their questions, filling in the blanks.

SAY: **Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people, including two men traveling on the road to Emmaus. At the end of His life, Jesus gave a commission to His followers to tell everyone about Him and make disciples. Jesus' time on earth ended when He ascended into Heaven.**

ASK: **What part did the era of Jesus' Life play in God's plan for salvation?** (Jesus is the center of God's salvation. Everything in God's plan points to Jesus.)

SAY: **When we understand that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus, it helps us realize how important we are to God. It helps us know how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.**

## **Bible Memory** John 3:16, 17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Display the John 3:16, 17 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to John 3:16, 17, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud.

ASK: **Who said these words and to whom?** (Jesus, Nicodemus)  
**How would you summarize these verses if you wanted to tell a friend about these verses?** Accept responses.

SAY: **These verses really sum up God's plan, don't they? God loves us so much that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus. We can be saved from our sins through Jesus because God wants everyone to be in Heaven with Him.** Invite students to say the Bible Memory together. Encourage them to work on memorizing this important Scripture passage.

### **Materials**

*Resources* sheet 6,  
reusable adhesive, Bibles



### **Note**

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

### **Optional Bible Skill Builder**

Print and use the  
*Resources* CD Optional Bible  
Skills 5 printable file.



## Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

- 3** Use one of these activities to help students **realize that God sent the salvation He had prepared for in the first six eras of Bible history.**

### Materials

Resources sheets 1–4,  
Activities for lesson 5, Bibles,  
pencils



Offer to help those who struggle with reading and writing.

### Materials

Resources CD Prophecies Fulfilled printable file, scissors, Resources sheets 1–4, Bibles



### Teaching Tips

If a lot of your students participate in singing groups or any particular sport or hobby in which they prepare, use that instead of soccer.

If you have a large class, pair students up and give each pair a card.

## Quick Step The Preparation Ends

ASK several preteens to tell what they do that takes a lot of preparation. SAY: **Right now, you get to be part of a group preparing for something. There are two choices: preparing for a singing competition and preparing for a soccer game.** Tell students to choose which group they want to be part of, and have those groups get together. Tell the groups to think about how they would prepare for their activity, then work together to show the other groups how they would prepare. Give the groups a few minutes to work on this. Then let them present how they would prepare. **How well you do in a singing competition depends on the preparation you've done. The same is true for a soccer game, a vacation, and lots of things.** Direct students' attention to the first four Bible time lines. **God spent 2,000 years preparing for our salvation. Let's compare the preparation to what happened.**

Have students look in their leaflets at the activity The Preparation Ends. Have a volunteer read the first sentence under "The Preparation." Then have all preteens look up the Scripture passage and read it to themselves. Ask a volunteer to answer the question. Do the same for questions 2–4. (Answers: 1=a virgin named Mary; 2=the Holy Spirit descended on Him; 3=pierced it; 4=Joseph's tomb) Then ask everyone to turn to Galatians 4:4, 5, and have a volunteer read it aloud. Have another volunteer answer the question. (Answer: God sent His Son to redeem us.) SAY: **God had prepared a nation and a family through which Jesus would come. The prophecies about the one who would bring salvation were all fulfilled in Jesus. The evidence shows clearly that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus.**

## Option Prophecies Fulfilled

Before class, make two copies of the printable file. Keep one copy intact for your use. Cut apart the cards on the other copy.

Have students gather in a circle. SAY: **Think about how you would prepare for a big soccer game. Get one idea in mind. Start by saying: I'm preparing for the big soccer game by \_\_\_\_.** Then ask the student on your right to repeat your idea and give his idea. Keep going around the circle in the same way until preteens run out of ideas. Then direct students' attention to the first four Bible time lines. **God spent 2,000 years preparing for our salvation. Let's see whether or not the preparations and prophecies about Jesus' coming happened.** Mix up the cards from the printable file, and then give each preteen a card. **Some of you have cards that are prophecies about the salvation that would come, and some of you have cards that tell how that prophecy was fulfilled.** Tell preteens to read their cards and then get up and find the person who has the card that matches theirs. Pairs should stay together. When all the matches are found, have pairs read their cards. Then have students sit down and turn in their Bibles to Galatians 4:4, 5, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. **The evidence shows clearly that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus.**

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4 Use one of these activities to help students **show thanks for and tell others about God's plan of salvation.**

## Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

### Quick Step Express Your Thanks!

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation. Then, at just the right time, ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus, not just to teach and do miracles, but to die on the cross for our sins. That's a lot of love! Let's thank God for His love and for sending salvation for us.** Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity Express Your Thanks! Read the instructions. Encourage preteens to write their thanks to God. Tell them that no one else will see what they're writing.

When you sense that preteens are done, invite them to spread out in your area. Encourage them to silently pray the prayers they've written and to ask for God's help in telling others about salvation. Ask students to remain quiet until after you pray. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer. Thank God for His plan of salvation and for sending Jesus.

### Option STONE Remembrance



Before class, write the acrostic from the narrow column on the board.

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation. Then, at just the right time, ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus, not just to teach and do miracles, but to die on the cross for our sins. That's a lot of love! Let's thank God for His love and for sending salvation for us.**

Give each preteen a stone and an index card. SAY: **These small stones can help us remember the large stone that was in front of Jesus' tomb, which was rolled away when Jesus rose from the grave.** Draw students' attention to the acrostic on the board, and have a volunteer read it aloud. Then tell students to write the acrostic on their index cards. Preteens can also decorate the cards and use crayons to color the stones. As they work, say: **This acrostic can help us remember what our responses to God can be for sending salvation. We can show our gratitude, our thanks. We can tell others about salvation. We can keep God's commands. We can accept Jesus as our Savior. And we can praise God.** Preteens can glue their stones onto their cards and take the project home.

Close with a time of prayer. Lead preteens in directed prayer. Tell them that you'll pray and then pause. When you pause they should silently pray the same thing that you've prayed. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Your plan of salvation.** Pause. **Thank You for Jesus.** Pause. **Thank You that Jesus was willing to die on the cross.** Pause. **Help me to tell others about your plan of salvation.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,  
Activities for lesson 5,  
pencils



### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase  
marker, Resources sheets  
1-4, small stones (can use river  
stones), crayons, index cards,  
pencils, markers, quick-drying  
craft glue



### Acrostic

Show gratitude to God each day.  
Tell about God's salvation.  
Obey God's commands.  
Name Jesus as Lord of my life.  
Exalt and praise God.

### Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

