

Jesus the Expert Teacher



SABBATH—OCTOBER 24

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Hebrews 1:1–4; John 1:14, 18.

MEMORY VERSE: “God said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness.’ (Genesis 1:3) He made his light shine in our hearts. His light gives us the light to know God’s glory. His glory is shown in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NlrV).



When Jesus is born, humans lie torn and crushed in spirit. They need to see God’s face the same as the soldier.

PASTOR BILLY GRAHAM tells the story about the time he visited some soldiers at a hospital. The army general is there. One young soldier “is so badly hurt. The soldier lies on his stomach on a steel bed. His body is torn and crushed.” A doctor tells Graham about the soldier. The doctor talks softly so that the soldier will not hear what he says. The doctor sadly tells Graham, “ ‘I doubt this soldier will ever walk again.’ ” Then the soldier asks the general for a favor. The soldier tells the general: “ ‘Sir, . . . I fought for you. But I have never seen you. Can I see your face?’ ” So, the general kneels down and slides under the steel bed. Then he talks with the soldier face-to-face. As Graham watches, a tear falls from the soldier onto the general’s cheek.

That soldier is a word picture for humans at the time when Jesus is born. When Jesus is born, humans are torn and crushed in spirit. They need to see God’s face the same as that soldier. God sent His Son, Jesus, to this planet. Jesus is the Expert Teacher. One of the jobs Jesus had was to show humans the face of God. Ever since, we have the blessing of seeing “God’s glory . . . in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NlrV). As we watch the Expert Teacher make His way to earth, what can we learn from Him?

SHOWING THE FATHER: PART 1 (Hebrews 1:1–4)

Read Hebrews 1:1–4. What are the most important things that Paul tells us about Jesus in these verses?

New Testament writers often talk about the same important idea: Jesus comes to earth to show us the Father. In the past, God showed Himself in part to His special messengers. In Jesus, we see the best picture of God.

Also, Jesus “the Son shows the glory of God” (Hebrews 1:3, ERV) to us. As sinners, we cannot look at the full glory of God. As the God-Man, Jesus shows us God’s glory so that we can look at it and not die. Jesus’ human body is the same as a covering. It helps to protect us from God’s full glory. God’s glory shines from Jesus to us. Then we see part of God’s glory and understand who God is.

Jesus also is “an exact copy of God’s nature [God’s thoughts and feelings]” (Hebrews 1:3, ICB). The word for “copy” comes from the Greek word “**character**.” “Character” is the mark that a stamp makes when it is pressed into hot wax. “Character” also meant the face of someone that was stamped on a coin. So, this word helps us to see that Jesus “the Son is as God is in every way” (Hebrews 1:3, NLV).

If we wish to know the Father, we must learn what Jesus, the Expert Teacher, says about Him. We must watch the Master Teacher too. We see the Father in the Son.

Compare Hebrews 1:1–4 with 2 Corinthians 4:1–6. In 2 Corinthians 4:1–6, who is Jesus? What do we learn from Him?

Paul and his coworkers try to show people the Father the same as Jesus did. Jesus is “the likeness [an exact copy] of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4, Nlrv). Jesus brought us knowledge about God the Father. When God made the earth, He used light to make the darkness go away. In the same way, God gave us His Son, Jesus, to put an end to false ideas and views about Him. God sent Jesus to show us the truth about God too. It is in “the face of Christ [Jesus]” that we see the best picture of God (2 Corinthians 4:6, Nlrv).

Jesus showed us the Father. God asks us to “follow his example” and show who He is to people too (Ephesians 5:1, Nlrv). What does it mean to follow God’s example? What can we learn from Jesus about how to do this?



Jesus shows us the best picture of God.

SHOWING THE FATHER: PART 2 (John 1:14, 18)

In John 1:1–18, John says that Jesus is the everlasting “Word.” What does John mean? Jesus’ life has no limits. Jesus has been alive forever. Jesus made every good thing (John 1:2, 3). He is the “Light for men” (John 1:4, NIV). Jesus is “the true light that gives light to everyone” (John 1:9, NIV).

What does it mean for us that Jesus became a human? What answer does John give us in John 1:14, 18? What light did Jesus bring? What was so special about Jesus that made it possible for Him to do this?

“Jesus is the Light. He came to this earth when evil on this earth was at its worst. . . .

“Humans had only one hope. . . . The knowledge of God must be given back to fallen humans.

“Jesus came to this earth to bring humans this knowledge. Jesus came to get rid of the false teaching that showed to humans a wrong picture about God. This false teaching was taught by the same ones who said they knew who God was. Jesus came to show the meaning of God’s law. Jesus came to show us by His behavior the beauty of God’s holy life.”—Ellen G. White, *Education*, pages 74–76, adapted.

Everything Jesus did in this life was “to show God so that humans can become the same as God in their hearts.”—*Education*, page 82, adapted.



How long have we walked with Jesus? Do we understand Jesus any better than Philip did?

Jesus Himself says, “ ‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father too’ ” (John 14:9, ERV). What was happening when Jesus said this in John 14:1–14? Who was He talking to? Why did He say this?

We may think that Philip’s words are foolish (John 14:8) because Philip spent many years in close friendship with Jesus. But Philip fails to understand a very important part of why Jesus came to this earth: Jesus came to show the Father’s love. Maybe teachers today can feel some encouragement when they remember that Jesus’ student showed that he did not learn Jesus’ lessons well! And maybe that is why John wrote what Philip said. Maybe John wrote it to help us to understand that we may have wrong ideas about Jesus too. But John wants to give us the chance to look at what is in our hearts. Are we failing to understand Jesus? How long have we walked with Jesus? Do we understand Jesus any better than Philip did?

LEARNING FROM JESUS (Philippians 2:1–4)

Read Philippians 2:1–4 and Philippians 4:2, 3. As these verses show, what is in Paul’s heart when he writes his letter to the Christians in Philippi?

Philippians 2:1–11 is one of the most important messages in the whole Bible. These verses talk about Jesus. Paul says that Jesus always has been alive. Jesus is God. Jesus came to this earth. He was born as a human. He died on the cross. Paul talks about the long, difficult trip that Jesus made from heaven to Calvary (Philippians 2:5–8). Paul also tells us how the Father announces that everyone in heaven and earth should worship Jesus (Philippians 2:9–11). We learn many wonderful Bible truths in these verses.

How does Paul start Philippians 2:5–11? What does he say exactly? Now read Philippians 2:6–11. Paul talks about the different things that Jesus did during His life on earth. Which parts of Jesus’ life do you think Paul expects believers to show in their own lives?

The believers at Philippi often argue. So, Paul hopes that they will learn from Jesus’ life on earth. Paul says, “He put aside everything that belonged to Him and made Himself the same as a servant who is owned by someone. He became human by being born as a man” (Philippians 2:7, NLV). Jesus emptied His heart of all pride. He accepted death in our place on the cross because He loved us so much. How much more should we empty our hearts of all pride and serve each other with love?

Jesus, the Expert Teacher, has many lessons for us. We learn from His sermons. We learn from His miracles. His love shows us how to be kind to other people. Jesus gives up the glory He has in heaven so that He can be born in a feeding box for sheep. This is a powerful lesson for us!

Most people brag about the things they do. But we learn a different lesson from a feeding box in Bethlehem. God’s plan for teaching and for saving sinners has nothing to do with bragging. No, we must empty our hearts of all pride. Then we must become servants to other people.

Are you having a hard time with someone? What if you emptied your heart of all pride? How do you think that this will give you a powerful chance to show Jesus to this person?



Jesus gives up the glory He has in heaven so that He can be born in a feeding box for sheep. This is a powerful lesson for us!

HEALING BROKEN FRIENDSHIPS (2 Corinthians 5:16–21)

Friendships too often fall apart. The person we trusted becomes someone we do not trust. Then we become strangers. But broken friendships can be fixed. When that happens, it is a beautiful miracle. Another name for fixing broken friendships is **reconciliation**. Reconciliation is bringing people into peace with each other. Few human experiences are as sweet as reconciliation.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16–21. As we see in these verses, how is healing broken friendships part of Jesus’ decision to be born as a Man? How is this healing work part of Jesus’ job as our Expert Teacher too?

We feel happy when our broken friendships are healed. How much happier should we feel when Jesus brings us back to God? In 2 Corinthians 5:16–21, Paul shows that the Father Himself leads in fixing our broken friendship with Him. Jesus made this work possible by His “death on the cross” (2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV). “God was in Christ [Jesus], making peace between the world [sinners] and himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19, ERV).

We must learn from Jesus how to make peace with people. When He was born as a human, Jesus healed broken hearts and friendships. God also invites us to take part in this same work. God the Father has brought us back to Himself by His Son. “And God gave us the work of bringing people into peace with him” (2 Corinthians 5:18, ERV).

Colossians 1:15–20 also talks about Jesus’ work as a human. Colossians 1:15–17 talks about Jesus’ work in making the earth. Colossians 1:18–20 talks about Jesus’ work in saving us from sin. Jesus is the One who made us and saves us. These two things make it possible for God to bring all things into peace with Himself.

God’s healing work is big. It happens on heaven and earth. God invites us to join Him in “the work of bringing people into peace with him” (2 Corinthians 5:18, ERV). Maybe this is what Jesus meant when He prayed, “ ‘You sent me into the world [people on the earth]. In the same way, I have sent them into the world’ ” (John 17:18, NIV).

How can we help the people in our lives to be at peace with each other?



God invites us to join Him in “the work of bringing people into peace with him.”

JESUS' FIRST STUDENTS (Luke 2:8–20)

One day, the men are ordinary shepherds taking care of sheep outside a small town. The next day, the shepherds get a surprising visit from angels. The angels tell them news that will change history on this planet forever. The shepherds' hearts are touched. They go right away to find the Child that angels told them about.

Read Luke 2:8–20. Make a picture in your mind of yourself standing with the shepherds in these verses. You are looking into the feeding box. What do you see?

We must admire the first students of Jesus, the Expert Teacher. Who were these first students? Joseph and Mary and the shepherds, of course! Jesus is not born in a palace. The place where He is born does not show us the truth about this Baby. He is God Himself. As a Baby, He has become One with humans. But God sends dreams, visions, and angels to help human eyes to know who Jesus really is. Then the shepherds tell people the wonderful news that “ ‘Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is the Messiah, the Lord’ ” (Luke 2:11, ERV; compare Luke 2:17).

Read Matthew 2:1–12. What do the Wise Men do when they learn the news that Jesus is born? What does Herod do?

Before Jesus does any miracle or preaches His first sermon, people worship Him. Why? Because of who He is. The Wise Men worship Jesus. We must join them in their worship if we want fully to understand Jesus’ teachings later on. We admire Jesus because He is the Expert Teacher. But He is more than a wise Teacher. He is God. As God, He came to live with humans as a Man. Christian education starts with our worship of Jesus.

With the Wise Men, shepherds, and angels, we must worship Jesus, the newborn King. In Jesus, we see the truth about God Himself: that He loves us and wants to save us.

Think about what Jesus’ being born as a Baby helps us to understand about God’s love. Jesus is the One who made everything: the stars and all the planets. We cannot fully understand His power. This same God came to this earth and died for our sins. Why is this news so wonderful?



The angels tell the shepherds the wonderful news: “ ‘Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is the Messiah, the Lord.’ ”

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “The Teacher Sent From God,” pages 73–83, in *Education*.

“Jesus is the Teacher sent to this earth from God. Jesus is the center of all education. Jesus told us things about Himself almost 2,000 years ago. These words continue to be true today about education the same as when Jesus first said them:

“ ‘I am the First and the Last. I am the one who lives’ ” [Revelation 1:17, 18, ERV].

“ ‘I am the Alpha [first letter in the Greek alphabet] and the Omega [last letter in the Greek alphabet], the Beginning and the End’ ” [Revelation 21:6, ERV].

“Jesus gives us a wonderful chance to learn from Him. So what can be worse than trying to get an education separate from Him? Can we be wise when we separate from Jesus who is Wisdom? Can we be true when we turn away from Jesus who is Truth? Can we find knowledge or light when we separate from Jesus who is the Light? Can we live without the One who is Life? Can we turn from the Well of Living Waters, who is Jesus, and drink out of broken jugs that can hold no water?

“Look, Jesus continues to invite us: ‘Whoever is thirsty may come to me and drink. If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from their heart’ John 7:37, 38, [ERV]”—Ellen G. White, *Education*, page 83, adapted.

“I want to help you get ready for the work God gives you to do. So, I will show you the words, the life, the teaching plan of the Prince of Teachers, Jesus. I ask you to learn from Him. He is your best Example. Look at Him. Think about Him. Keep doing this until the Spirit of the Holy Teacher controls your heart and life.

“ ‘We all show the Lord’s glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings more and more glory. And it comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.’ ” 2 Corinthians 3:18 [ICB].

“This is the secret to having the power to change your students’ lives for the better.”—*Education*, page 282, adapted.



“Can we turn from the Well of Living Waters, who is Jesus, and drink out of broken jugs that hold no water?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① The Bible truth about Jesus becoming human is important for teachers and students to carefully study. What can they learn from it? How should this teaching change what they believe and do?
- ② Christian parents and teachers must show God’s love. This love is shown in Jesus’ coming to earth as a Baby. Sometimes we fail to show this love. What should we do when we fail?

FINDING FREEDOM IN RWANDA

I am not sure why I agree to preach at the Total Member Involvement meetings in Rwanda in May 2016. I am the oldest volunteer. All the other volunteers are young people. The person in charge of the meetings is Duane McKey. He invites our Seventh-day Adventist Church in Paris to be a part of the meetings. As I said, I am not sure why I volunteer. I feel weak from being sick for a long time. My 23-year-old son killed himself a short time ago. But I sign up to go to Rwanda. They ask me to be in charge of the young people, not to preach.

Things change when we get to Nyanza, Rwanda. We meet with the local pastors. Then they ask me to preach. I run to my room and fall on my knees. "Lord, I have never preached," I pray. "But You say that we do not do things in our own power or strength. It is Your Spirit who helps us to serve You. So, use me to preach. Please use me to say what You want to say. Let the people hear You, not me."

The first evening, I preach about the power of the Good News. I tell how the Good News can change lives. I know that the people of Rwanda suffered many awful things in the 1990s when many Rwandans were killed. I suffered many of the same experiences that the Rwandans suffered. I talk to the people from my heart. Every time I ask people to accept Jesus, people are touched. Many of these people are women who had been forced to have sex. A lot of people decide to accept Jesus.

The more I preach, the more Jesus heals me. Yes, I gave my heart to Jesus many years earlier. But now I start to understand that I blamed God for what happened when I was a child.

My stepfather used to force me to have sex with him. I did not tell my mother until I was 12. She took me to a doctor and then sent me to live with a cousin. Shortly after that, she came to visit me on a Friday. I never saw her again. My stepfather killed her.

My stepfather spent only two years in prison because he was an important military leader. I lived in a home for orphans from age 13 to 19. My real father was alive. But he did not want to be my father. I felt so lonely.

I read the Bible. It started to heal me. I read these verses: Zephaniah 3:17; Zechariah 2:8; and Jeremiah 31:3. But I did not love myself. People told me I was pretty. But I did not feel pretty inside.

In Rwanda, the bad feelings inside me disappear as I preach. Jesus makes me free. I fully accept Jesus' love for me. At the end of the meetings, 390 people are baptized.

Today, I am 66. I have gone back to Rwanda many times. My Rwandan friends are my family. They call me "Mama." I work hard so that people everywhere will be made free by Jesus' love.

INSIDE
Story
by LUCETTE N'DAY MITRAC



As I read the Bible, it starts to heal me.

