

# John 12:17-26

## “Jesus: The Son of Man”

**Scripture:** John 12:17-26

**Memory Verse:** Daniel 7:14a *“To the Son of Man was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”*

**Lesson Focus:** In this study we will dig back into the OT book of Daniel to get a closer look at what Jesus means when He calls Himself the Son of Man. Then we will exhort the kids to make Jesus #1.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Triumphal Entry, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jesus Riding on a Donkey

**Starter Activity:** Titles (business cards)

Lead some discussion about titles to get the kids thinking. Titles are given to people to make it clear who they are and also sometimes what they do. Ask the kids what they think of when they hear of these titles (or come up with your own):

- 1) Captain
- 2) Maestro
- 3) Pastor
- 4) Master Builder (Lego movie characters with powers to build anything)

Sometimes people have business cards with a job title on them that they give to people.  
**Teachers:** If you have one, bring it in to share with them!

Q: If you had a business card, what would you put on it? (below are some silly ideas)

- Netflix Ninja, Fortnite Fanatic, Creative Crackerjack, Marvel Maniac

Now Jesus has many titles that we have already studied in the gospel of John.

Q: Who remembers some of the “I AM” statements that we’ve already seen? (i.e. Bread of Life, Light of the World, Door of the Sheep, Good Shepherd, Resurrection and the Life)

Today we are going to look at what is perhaps Jesus’s favorite title for Himself. Throughout all four gospels, He refers to Himself as this title almost 100 times!

Q: Anyone know what it is? Let’s open our Bibles and we will see.

## Bible Study:

**John 12:17:** This verse begins with “Therefore”.

Q: What question should you ask whenever you encounter the word “therefore” when you start reading the Bible like this?

A: What is it “THERE FOR”? This helps you understand the meaning. \*

If we look at what was written before, we see that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and shortly afterwards Jesus entered Jerusalem in fulfillment of OT prophecy (Palm Sunday). THEREFORE, people were continuing to bear witness and testify of Him.

**John 12:18-19:** More and more people were flocking to Jesus and the religious leaders were getting more and more mad!

However, this is just days before His coming death on the cross where just about everyone abandons Him. So you wonder how many of these people actually believe in Him and how many are just following the crowd.

**John 12:20-22:** Indeed, the Pharisees were right in v. 19 as even non-Jewish people (the Greeks) have heard about Jesus and want to see Him!

Q: Have any of you gotten autographs of any famous people? \*

**Teachers:** If you have any autographs of famous people, consider bringing them in to show the kids.

Jesus is like the modern-day celebrity that everyone wants the autograph of. \* Everyone wants to see Him, touch Him, meet Him, ask Him questions, etc. These Greeks can't get to Him so they try to get to Jesus through the disciples.

**John 12:23:** Who did Jesus say will be glorified? The Son of Man! Here is that favorite title that Jesus has for Himself. Jesus calls Himself this 11 times in the gospel of John alone.

“*Son of Man*” at first does not seem like a very exciting title. I mean, all of us are sons and daughters of man, so what does Jesus mean by this? We have to go back to the Old Testament book of Daniel to see who this “*Son of Man*” was.

Q: Who remembers what Daniel is most famous for?

A: He was thrown into the lion's den for not going with the crowd, but faithfully praying to God. Yet God miraculously rescued Him!

Daniel was also famous for his visions and prophecies that God showed him. He was around about 500 years before Jesus and wrote down some of the most amazing prophecies, many of which were fulfilled in Jesus.

**Read Daniel 7:13-14:** Who did Daniel say he saw in this vision? The Son of Man! This vision and prophecy was well known among the Jewish people of Jesus' day to describe the one God promised to send to save His people (the Messiah). This is a marvelous peek into the very throne room of God! Look at v. 14:

Q: What was this Son of Man given? Dominion, power, and glory! This guy is the BOSS! He is a man, but has power that only God has. This is the God-man!

Q: How long is His dominion and rule? Everlasting! Forever!

If Jesus was passing out "*Son of Man*" business cards back then, they would be LOADED with this meaning. People would have known He was referring to this guy that Daniel had prophesied would come. Coupling that with the signs and wonders like the raising of Lazarus, it was no wonder that Jesus was a celebrity right now!

**John 12:24:** Remember Jesus said in v. 23 that His hour has come to be glorified. The people were excitedly following Him expecting Him to usher in an earthly kingdom. But what does Jesus talk about in this verse? He's talking about death!

His glorification only comes through His death! This is not what the people were expecting and explains why so many people abandoned Him at the cross!

Q: How many of you have gardened before? What have you gardened?

Have you ever thought that if you just hold on tight to a seed and take good care of it, it will eventually produce a beautiful garden? No! What do you have to do with a seed before it will produce? Bury it in the ground! It must "die" before it produces fruit.

In the same way, Jesus must die and be buried to bring forth a "harvest" of saved sinners! This is because only His death can wash away the sins of people.

**John 12:25:** These are challenging words of Jesus.

Who is the one who loves his life? The one who puts SELF #1.

Who is the one who hates his life? The one who puts God/Jesus #1, Others #2, Self #3. \*

Q: What does it mean to surrender?

A: It means to let go and give control to someone else in absolute trust. \*

But who are we surrendering to? The Son of Man! Remember from Daniel 7 this guy has power, dominion, and glory! But He is not just holy and mighty and powerful. We also read this about Him in the New Testament:

"The **Son of Man** has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

"The **Son of Man** did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

This holy and mighty Son of Man in Daniel 7 willingly came to seek, to save, and to give His life. And just as He came to serve and die, He charges His followers to be servants of others; to also die to self so that they will live for Him.

“The **Son of Man** must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and the third day rise again.” (Luke 24:7)

This is the same Son of Man we just celebrated the resurrection of two weeks ago and is now seated at the right hand of God. He is the Son of Man, but he is also the Son of God! He is the God-man and the King! He is WORTHY of our surrender!

**John 12:26:** Jesus invites everyone and anyone to come and follow Him.

Remember back in **Daniel 7:14** it described people from different nations, languages and cultures. What does it describe them doing? Serving and worshipping this Son of Man!

**Key Point:** Is that you? Is King Jesus #1 to you? Make Him #1 by faith!

Notice also in this v. 26 that those who serve and follow Him **will be where He is!** Can you think of any better place than to be with King Jesus?

At the beginning of our lesson we talked about what title you would put on your business card. There were some silly one's like Fortnite Fanatic, but what about “***Jesus Junkie***”? This described the apostles. This described the early church who were martyred for their faith. This describes followers of Jesus throughout history. Does this describe you?

Go out and be a *Jesus Junkie* this week!

# Bring It Home

*(Devotional for the Family)*

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: The Son of Man”**

**Scripture: John 12:17-26**

**Memory Verse:** Daniel 7:14a *“To the Son of Man was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** We introduced our Bible study by talking about titles. Titles make it clear who we are and also sometimes what we do for a living. What titles have you been given throughout your life? What are some titles that you might give to yourself to describe who you are? Discuss.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) The “Son of Man” is perhaps Jesus’s favorite title for Himself for He gives Himself this title almost 100 times across the gospels. Read **Daniel 7:13-14**. How does this description of the Son of Man help us better understand what Jesus means when He refers to Himself as the Son of Man?
- 2) Read **John 12:17-20**. This is at the height of Jesus’s popularity and less than a week before His crucifixion. What do you think it would have been like to have been there?
- 3) Read **John 12:23**. How is Jesus’s idea of “the Son of Man being glorified” different from the ideas of the people around Him at this time?
- 4) Read **Luke 19:10** and **Matthew 20:28**. Compare these aspects of the Son of Man with the description in **Daniel 7:13-14**. What are you most amazed by?
- 5) Read **John 12:25**. Why is it important to understand who the Son of Man is and what He has done *before* you take seriously Jesus’s challenging statements in this verse?
- 6) Jesus’ charge to “hate” one’s own life can be easily misunderstood. It is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. What is the difference between these two statements?
- 7) In class we talked about how “hating” one’s own life works itself out by putting God #1, Others #2, and Yourself #3. Who are some people that you can make an effort to serve and bless in obedience to your great God and Savior, Jesus Christ?
- 8) In class we challenged the kids to own the title of “*Jesus Junkie*”! What do you think this means and how can you own this title this week?