

John 7:1-31

“Jesus: Heaven Sent”

Scripture: John 7:1-31

Memory Verse: John 7:29 *“I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”*
(NASB)

Lesson Focus: We will emphasize what Jesus Himself emphasizes many times in this section of Scripture: that He is from God and SENT by God. These are amazing claims and we will look at the reaction of various groups of people to these claims. In the end, we will challenge the kids to examine how they react, whether in apathy or in faith!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Jesus, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Envelope to Send Picture

Starter Activity: What Do You Send?

To get the kids familiar with the idea of Jesus being “sent”, first ask the kids what are some things that they send. Some answers you might suggest:

- Text messages
- Thank you letters
- Care packages (like Operation Christmas Child shoebox)

Q: How many of you have ever helped an adult package something to be shipped in the mail? You typically box it, put an address on it, and some stamps and then send it.

Did you know that you can actually send objects directly without a box? You just put the address and postage on it directly and that’s it! Consider these objects and messages:

Teachers: Consider bringing in some of these objects to enhance the discussion.

- 1) A potato: Message to video gamer: “Get outside and play you couch potato!”
- 2) A rolling pin: Message to grandma, “Let’s bake something sweet together!”
- 3) Piece of wood: Message to friend, “ ‘Wood’ you like to come over and play?”
- 4) Toilet paper: Message to a cool aunt or uncle, “You are my ‘roll’ model!”

Imagine getting or sending some of these objects directly in the mail without any boxes!! It is fun to send things to people, isn’t it? In each of these cases, the sender is sending something special to someone that they love or care about.

Jesus repeatedly claims that He has been SENT by God. Jesus is like a special care package from the Father to us! Let’s take a look:

Bible Study:

Anytime something is sent, those to whom it is sent will react in different ways. In our text, we are going to see different groups of people and their reaction to Jesus.

John 7:1-9: The first group is Jesus's own brothers or half-brothers.

Q: Look at v. 5: How were His own half-brothers reacting to Him? Not with belief, but with half-hearted ridicule!

If any of you have siblings, I think you can almost understand their perspective. Can you imagine growing up with a brother that does everything perfectly? They were probably sick and tired of hearing, "Jesus this, Jesus that, why can't you be more like your brother Jesus!"

If you guys are growing up in a Christian home where you constantly hear about Jesus, be careful that you don't become so "used to" Jesus that you start to get tired of hearing about Him! *

If Jesus is actually sent from God the Father to be the God-man, our Hero and Rescuer, how could we ever dismiss Him as ordinary? *

John 7:10-13: Jesus had been making all of this noise with His miracles and His claims about being sent by God that the people were expecting Him, wondering what He was going to do or say next.

Here we get to see the reactions of the Jewish crowd to Jesus. These are ordinary Jewish people attending this annual feast in Jerusalem.

Q: Look at v. 12: How were these people reacting to Him? They were arguing about Him having many different opinions about Him. Is He good? Is He a liar?

What is good about this is that there is interest in Jesus! While they might not correctly understand who Jesus is, they are at least wondering and talking about Him!

Q: Are you even interested in Jesus? Once you truly begin to see Who Jesus is, the God-man sent to you, you cannot help but wonder at Him and talk about Him. * If we rightly understand Who Jesus is, He will NEVER be boring!

John 7:14-16: Boom! Jesus makes His appearance when He wants! And the people marvel, or stand in awe of Him, because He teaches with authority and yet has no training!

Imagine a boy having never played baseball, stepping up to the plate for the first time and hitting a home run. Or imagine a girl showing up to her first piano lesson able to play Canon in D perfectly. You would wonder, "Where did they learn how to do that?"

Q: Look at v. 16. How does Jesus respond? He says His teaching is from the Father Who SENT Him! There it is once again: Jesus is from the Father and sent by the Father. His words are the very words of God!

John 7:17-24: Jesus is referring back to the man he healed at the pool which really ignited all of this fuss. He healed that man on the Sabbath which is what they took issue with. Yet, Jesus is pointing out that they do similar “works” on the Sabbath as well and therefore busting them as hypocrites.

Q: What does it mean to be a hypocrite?

A: To say one thing but then do the opposite; to pretend to be what you aren't

Examples: (**Teachers:** consider acting these out, or come up with your own)

- To say I care about the environment while littering
- To say I love my brother or sister while beating them up
- To blurt out “sorry” to avoid getting in trouble, when you really aren't sorry

These Jews are saying they keep the law (which says do not murder) yet they want to murder Jesus!

We all have moments of weakness when we can be hypocrites. Instead of reacting with anger or making excuses when you get busted, remember Jesus was SENT for you! Turn from your hypocrisy and turn to Him!

John 7:25-27: The people are shocked that Jesus is still teaching. Notice also that they aren't taking Him seriously because they have expectations of Him being someone more sensational and mysterious. “From Nazareth? Isn't he the son of Mary and Joseph? Don't we know his brothers?” These people was expecting God to SEND them a different package! *

John 7:28-29: Jesus CRIES OUT these words.

Just imagine yourself among the people quietly chatting about who this Jesus thinks He is and then he addresses exactly what you are talking about as if He is talking directly to you! *

Jesus makes it very clear that He is the God-man here. He was raised as a boy by Joseph and Mary, yes, but He had always existed as God! He grew up as a humble carpenter in Nazareth, yes, but as God He was appointed and SENT by the Father to be the Savior of the world!

John 7:30-31: We see one more reaction here.

Q: Notice v. 31. How did some of the people react to Jesus being SENT here? Belief! Bingo!

Key Point: How do you react to Jesus being SENT from God to you?

Q: Are you too “used to” Jesus that He doesn’t excite you anymore?

Q: Are you maybe not interested in Jesus because you are looking for other “packages”?

Q: OR, is your heart gripped by the fact that God would send His Son for you? That’s belief! That’s worship! That’s faith! That’s the will of God (v. 17)

My job as your teacher of the gospel is to do whatever I can to get you excited about Jesus! He is the best package you will ever receive!

Read John 20:21: Jesus says as the Father SENT Me, so I SEND you!

Jesus Who was sent for you, then sends us to others once we believe! He would send us to be special care packages to those around us!

If your heart has been captured by Jesus, you can’t help but tell others. You can’t help but invite others to church. You can’t help but show kindness to others. (**See 1 John 4:11**)

Go and tell others about Jesus this week!

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Heaven Sent”

Scripture: John 7:1-31

Memory Verse: John 7:29 *“I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”*
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Teachers/Parents: We typically send packages to people we love and care about. In our lesson today, we highlighted how Jesus Himself claimed to be sent by God. He was sent from the Father to a dying world because God loves the people of the world. Discuss some things that you have sent to people you care about and why you sent them.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In **John 7:5**, we see how even the half-brothers of Jesus, who perhaps knew Jesus better than anyone else, did not believe in Him. How do you think this could be? What does this suggest about the natural condition of the human hearts of us all?
- 2) In **John 7:12** we see that there is an interest in Jesus among the people revealed by their arguing and discussion. Do you think it is better to be wrong about Jesus though to be interested in Him OR to be right about Jesus though to be uninterested in Him? (**Read Revelation 3:15-16** for some more thoughts)
- 3) In **John 7:13** we see the people afraid to speak openly about Jesus for fear of those who might persecute them. Who or what might be holding you back from talking openly about Jesus? How can you overcome those fears?
- 4) **John 7:19-24** shows how hypocritical the Jewish people were being. In v. 24, Jesus contrasts judging how things look vs. how things actually are. Do you think Jesus cares more about how you look or more about who you actually are? How should that affect how you see other people?
- 5) In **John 7:28-29**, we see Jesus boldly claim that His origin is far greater than anything that they had imagined. Jesus is God’s perfect care package SENT to us. We can either receive it or refuse it. Have you received it?
- 6) **Read John 15:26**. If you have received Jesus, then Who else does He then promise to send to you? **Read John 17:18**. According to this passage, what is something that the Holy Spirit is going to help you do?
- 7) Who are some people in your life that Jesus would SEND you to?