



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Curriculum July 27 - Sept 14, 2025



REACTIONS TO JESUS

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REACTIONS TO JESUS

Memory Verses

Week 1

JOHN 1:12

But to all who believed in Him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Week 2

LUKE 5:32

I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.

Week 3

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

Week 4

JAMES 1:5

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Week 5

MATTHEW 6:33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Week 6

JAMES 1:17

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

Week 7

JOHN 8:31-32

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Week 8

1 THESSALONIANS 1:8

And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere...for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God.



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 1: The Message

Passage

Main Point

Intro

**Supporting
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ROMANS 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-10

Different people react differently to Jesus. You have a choice in how you will respond to Him.

In this series, we are going to learn about how different people reacted to Jesus and his message from God.

GOD'S MESSAGE

We all do things that are wrong and this separates us from God (Romans 3:23). However, we can be forgiven for everything if we admit we need forgiveness and ask for it (Romans 10:9; Acts 4:10, 12).

JESUS SAID SOME CRAZY THINGS

- "You need help": You are not good enough to get into heaven based on the things you do. The wrong things you do separate you from God! (Matthew 5:20)
- "I am God": Jesus is the Savior of the world who came to pay for our sin so that we don't have to do it ourselves. Through Him, we can enter into a relationship with God and have a spot in heaven (John 10:30).

I have no choice In what I believe/whether I go to church because my parents bring me here. I don't have control over my reactions, they just happen.

Try reading one of the gospels on your own (or ask your parent to read it with you!) to see what you think of Jesus.

- What have you heard about Jesus? What do your friends think about Him?
- If you were walking by someone on the street who said the same things as Jesus, what would you be thinking?
- Do you think it's important to make your own decision about who Jesus is? Why?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 1: The Message

Craft

Meaning

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Instructions

Image

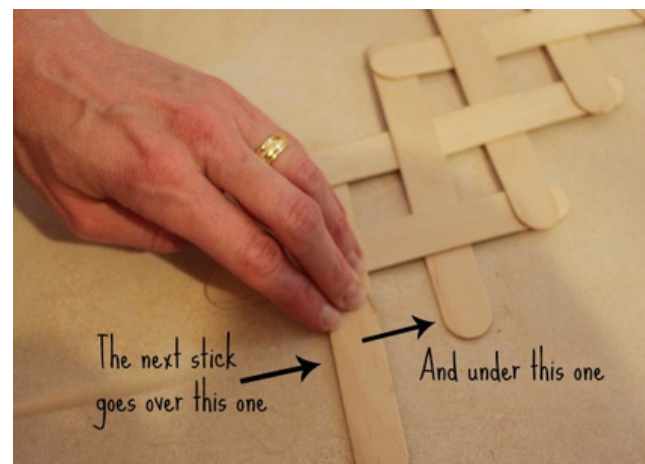
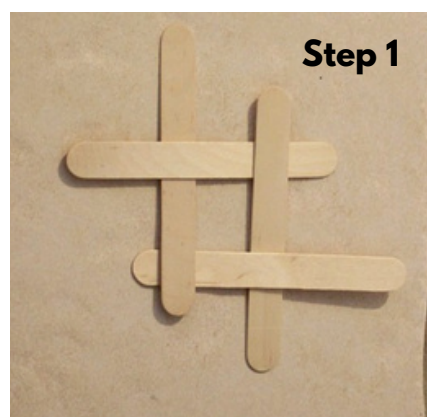
CHAIN REACTION

The message about Jesus can change one life after another, like a chain reaction!

craft sticks

1. Arrange 4 craft sticks into the pattern below. Make them look exactly like this.
2. Add another stick to the top to secure the end. This stick must go diagonally across to hold down the ends of the top horizontal stick and the right vertical stick. If it won't hold both of them down, slide those two sticks out farther until they are successfully held down by the stick you added.
3. Build the chain by adding craft sticks, one at a time to each side. Each stick should go over one stick and under another stick.

HINT: Do not let go of the craft sticks unless you want them to fall apart!





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 2: Matthew

Passage

Main Point

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MATTHEW 9:9-13

Admit your need for God like Matthew did.

Context: He was a tax collector and would have been considered a traitor by many.
Explain tax collectors.

MATTHEW'S REACTION

- How he met Jesus: Jesus came up to the place where he was working and said "follow me."
- Immediately left what he was doing to follow Jesus, then brought Jesus to meet all of his friends.

RESULTS IN HIS LIFE

- He became a devoted follower of Jesus, to the point that he even wrote a book of the Bible!
- The Pharisees were upset because Jesus was hanging out with tax collectors ("sinners").

I go to church and do good things, so that means I'm okay with God. I'm okay on my own, I don't need God. I'm fine with God because I've never done anything *too* bad.

Ask God to show you how much you need Him. Thank God that He forgave us through Jesus' sacrifice and that we don't have to try to work our way to Him.

- Why do you think Matthew's job made him so unpopular?
- What do you think made Matthew introduce Jesus to all his friends?
- Why do you think the Pharisees were so upset about Jesus being at Matthew's party?
- Why don't some people like to hangout with "sinful people"?
- What can we learn from what Jesus says in Matthew 9:13?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 2: Matthew

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

PAPER COIN BAG

Matthew was a rich tax collector, so we are making bags that you can put your coins in!

6" by 6" paper, device to watch a video on

1. Choose a piece of paper.
2. Follow along with your own origami coin bag as you have an adult volunteer help you watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqon0va-X9M>





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 3: Pharisees

Passage

Main Point

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MATTHEW 12:1-14

Sharing God's love is more important than being a "perfect" person.

Explain who the Pharisees were: experts in Jewish law. Many Jews believed that the people who followed the law the best would be the most accepted by God. Therefore, the Pharisees were seen as experts in how to be accepted by God.

PHARISEES' REACTION

- They were angry that Jesus was breaking the law of the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a command given by God in the OT so that they could have a day off work and learn more about Him. The Pharisees made a lot of rules about what was and wasn't allowed on the Sabbath.
- The Sabbath was made to protect people and give them rest, and now it's being used by the Pharisees to punish people.

RESULTS IN THEIR LIVES

- When Jesus breaks these Sabbath rules, He is showing people that God's love is more Important than following the rules.
- The Pharisees get so angry at Jesus for this that they begin thinking of ways they can get Him killed.

In order to be a good Christian, I just have to be a good person/follow all the rules.

Think of ways to love other people that you've never thought of before. God cares way more about loving others than doing all the "right things."

- Why do you think that the rules were so important to the Pharisees?
- Why might it be bad to think that I have to follow all the rules in order to be accepted by God?
- What makes loving people hard?
- What are some new, creative ways that you can show love to the people in your life?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 3: Pharisees

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

SECRET MESSAGE DECODER

The Pharisees made understanding what God wanted you to do so hard that it was like trying to decode a secret message. But Jesus made it easy to know what God is saying!

red sharpie, paper, blue and red colored pencils, sandwich size ziploc bags

1. Color a ziploc bag with red sharpie.
2. Write secret notes in blue colored pencil.
3. Squiggle over with red colored pencil.
4. Place the paper in the bag to reveal!





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 4: Thomas

Passage

Main Point

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JOHN 20:19-29

Doubts are normal and we should look for good answers to our questions.

It can be easy to think that I need to know and believe everything I hear about God without asking any questions. We see through the example of Thomas someone who had doubts and asked about them!

THOMAS'S REACTION

- Thomas was one of the twelve disciples who saw Jesus perform miracles during His life. Thomas had genuine belief that Jesus was the Messiah, but when Jesus was resurrected he had some questions...
- He wasn't with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them and so he refused to believe that Jesus had actually been resurrected until he saw proof.

RESULTS IN HIS LIFE

- Jesus revealed Himself to Thomas and Thomas believed that it was Him! He wasn't afraid to ask questions or boldly tell Jesus his doubts. Jesus answers these and Thomas's faith in Him is strengthened.

Having doubts and not asking questions about them. Thinking that having doubts means I'm a bad Christian.

Ask your questions and get the answers! God isn't afraid of your questions.

- Has there ever been a time where someone told you something that you didn't believe?
- Have you ever had a time where you had a question and you didn't know how to find the answer? What did you do?
- Why is it important to ask our questions about God?
- What are some questions you have about God?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 4: Thomas

Craft

Meaning

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Instructions

Image

FINGERPRINTS

Just like detective search through fingerprints to find answers, we should ask our questions about God until we find answers!

index cards (2 per child), pencils, pencil sharpener, scotch tape

1. Take 2 index cards.
2. Use one of the Index cards to create your "ink pad." (Use the side of a pencil lead to create a scribble of lead on the paper)
3. Gently rub your finger over the ink pad, making sure that it covers most of your fingerprint. You don't need to press down hard!
4. Use your other hand or have a help you to rip off a piece of tape and lay it flat on the table sticky side up.
5. Gently place your finger on the tape. Don't press down too hard or move your finger around a lot!
6. Lift your finger off the tape and place the piece of tape on your other index card!
7. Repeat for as many fingers as you want!





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 5: Rich Young Ruler

Passage

Main Point

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LUKE 18:18-30

Focusing on God is better than having the most money & best stuff on earth.

In this story, we see a man who is so focused on things in this world that he doesn't choose to follow God.

HIS REACTION

- Jesus puts him on the spot-- who does he believe Jesus really is?
- The rich young ruler believes that he is a good person and important because of his wealth and how well he follows the rules. Jesus shows him that he is not as good as he thinks he is because being a good person is not enough to get to God.

RESULTS IN HIS LIFE

- The rich young ruler is unwilling to give up his wealth to follow Jesus.
- Jesus reveals that having wealth can often get in the way of following God because money hides our needs from us. We think that money makes us important but it doesn't.
- When we give up trying to live our life to only earn lots of money & have lots of stuff, we are able to focus instead on relating to God. This leads to eternal rewards, which will last even into heaven.

Seeking things that we think make us important in this world-- wealth, people thinking we're cool, etc.

Think about what God says makes you important instead of what the world around you says makes you important.

- How do you think the man felt when Jesus said to sell everything and give it to the poor? Why do you think Jesus did this?
- What are some things that God might ask us to give up?
- Does anyone have a story where they gave something up for God and got something better in the end?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 5: Rich Young Ruler

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

DIY COINS

Decorate your own "coin" to remind yourself of what's really important in life.

toilet paper rolls, styrofoam plates, scissors, paint, paint brushes, table cloths

1. Place cloth over table.
2. Trace the bottom of a toilet paper roll on the styrofoam plate.
3. Cut out the "coin" from the styrofoam plate.
4. Use the paint to decorate!





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 6: The Ten Lepers

Passage

Main Point Intro

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Discussion

LUKE 17:11-19

We should be thankful to God for what he's given us.

Context: What is leprosy? Why were the lepers forced to stand at a distance from the crowd? Leprous people were often shunned because people believed that they were being punished with the disease by God.

THEIR REACTIONS

- Jesus heals the 10 lepers
 - Only one comes back to thank Him. That man was a Samaritan, a people group that the Jews hated.
 - 9 of these people were healed but never said thank you. They acted like they deserved to be healed by Jesus.

RESULTS IN THEIR LIFE

- The 9 Lepers who didn't say thank you didn't understand that we deserve nothing good in life at all-- we only deserve to be separated from God and punished for the things that we do wrong in life.
- 1 of the men was grateful. He understood that he didn't deserve anything from Jesus, but he was grateful for what he was given.

Take for granted what we are given. Always want what we don't have.

Be grateful to God! Think of 3 things a day that you are grateful for and thank God for them. Thank people around you for the things they do for you.

- Let's make a gratitude list-- we're gonna write out as many things as we can think of that we are grateful for in 4 minutes.
- What are some times when it is difficult for you to be grateful? Why is that?
- What are some things that can help you be grateful even when it feels hard?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 6: The Ten Lepers

Craft

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Instructions

Image

AIR CANNON

When God heals us, it goes farther and works better than us trying to change ourselves, just like the air cannon does a good job of blasting the pom poms!

paper cups, balloons, scissors, pom poms

1. Cut a small hole in the bottom of the cup.
2. Tie a knot at the mouth of one balloon. Once you've done that, cut off the top (round part) of the balloon. Make sure you don't cut off too much of the balloon!
3. Stretch the cut side of the balloon over the top of the cup, making sure that all sides are secure.
4. Keep one hand on the cup so that the balloon doesn't slide off when you pull it. Pull back the balloon and release to use your air cannon!





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 7: Judas

Passage

Main Point

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Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

If you believe what Jesus teaches, you should act on it.

Judas became a disciple of Christ because he thought Jesus would reign as a king. He was one of Jesus' most trusted disciples and closest followers for 3 years.

JUDAS'S REACTION

- When the opportunity comes to make money off of handing over Jesus to the Pharisees, Judas takes it. He betrays Jesus and it directly leads to Jesus' crucifixion.
- Why did Judas betray Jesus? He didn't believe when Jesus when he said that He was the Savior and God, so he chose to make money off of selling Jesus out.

RESULTS IN HIS LIFE

- Why didn't he believe Jesus? Jesus didn't look like the kind of Savior he wanted. He got a servant instead of a king. He wasn't interested in learning from Jesus about who God is, he just wanted Jesus to be the guy that he wanted him to be.
- He ends up regretting his decision to betray Jesus and takes his own life.

Caring more about what you can take for yourself than hearing the truth.

Decide what you believe about Jesus: Do you believe that He is God? Have you started a relationship with Him?

If you're not sure what you think about Jesus: Ask questions and learn more!

- Why do you think Judas cared more about what he could gain for himself than the truth?
- If you had a friend who didn't know what he thought about Jesus, what could you share with him?
- Sometimes it can be hard to care about anyone except ourselves. How can we grow in caring about other people?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 7: Judas

Craft

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Instructions

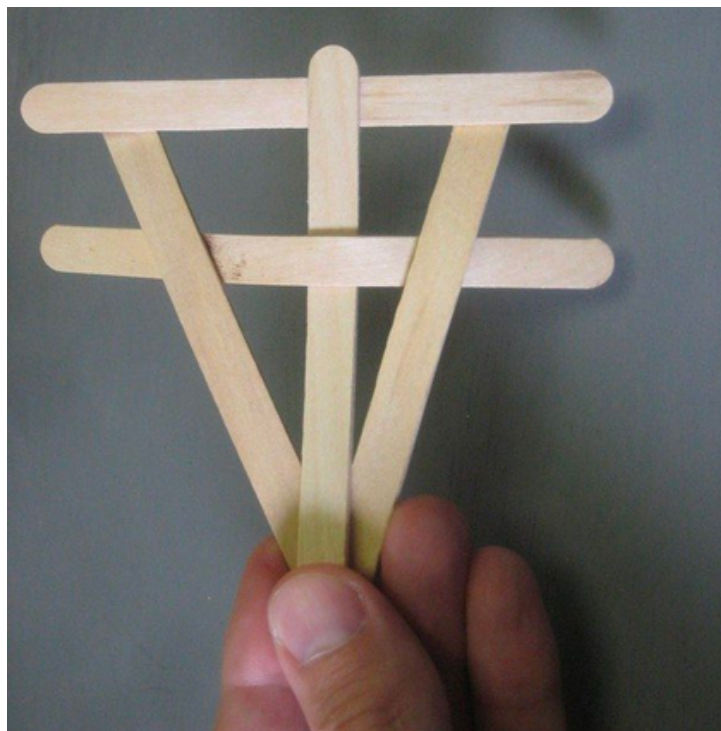
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EXPLODING POPSICLE STICKS

Making these can be a little difficult-- it takes practice and paying attention to what you are doing. Really learning about who God is takes the same things, and these were things that Judas wasn't willing to do.

popicle sticks

1. Make a "V." Take two popsicle sticks and place them in the form of the letter V. Make sure they are overlapping.
2. Make a "W." Now, take 1 more stick and place it on top of the other 2. This will not work if the middle stick isn't on top of the other 2.
3. Cross the "W." Take a popsicle stick and criss-cross the W. Look in the picture below on how to criss-cross the W (under, over, under).
4. Cross the crossed "W." Now you must cross the W with one more stick. This time in the opposite directions (over, under, over).
5. Now your popsicle stick bomb is complete! Try competing against a friend to see who can throw theirs the farthest without it "blowing up."





REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 8: Andrew

Passage

Main Point

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JOHN 1:35-42

Andrew's faith had a positive impact on others!

Andrew's life: fisherman, normal guy, followed John the Baptist, was looking for truth and when he found it, he followed it.

ANDREW'S REACTION

- When he learned that Jesus was the Messiah, he immediately starts bringing people to meet Him.
- He is also the one who brings the boy with the fish and bread to Jesus at the feeding of the 5,000.

RESULTS IN HIS LIFE

- He chooses to follow Jesus with his life and becomes one of the twelve disciples!
- He knew the most important thing in the world was for people to know Jesus. He trusted that Jesus would use the little that he had to do big things.

Your relationship with Jesus isn't something that people want to hear about. You should keep it to yourself.

Just like Andrew, let your trust in Jesus positively impact others! Share your excitement about God with the people around you, especially those who don't have a relationship with Him!

- What does this passage teach us about talking to others about God?
- Why do you think Andrew was so bold about sharing his faith in Jesus?
- Why can it be scary to share your faith with people?
- What advice would you give a friend who is nervous to share their faith with someone?



REACTIONS TO JESUS

Lesson 8: Andrew

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

MOOSE CALL

We can tell everyone who can hear us about God's love for them, just like tons of people can hear this moose call when you use it!

plastic cups, string (2ft per student), toothpicks, metal craft needle

1. Punch a small hole in the middle of the bottom of the cup-- just big enough for the string to fit through-- and push the string through the hole.
2. Tie the end of the string inside the cup to the toothpick.
3. Get the string wet.
4. Hold the cup in one hand and the string between thumb and forefinger.
5. Pull on the string and you should hear a loud noise!

