

THE BLACK LETTERS OF JESUS

PARENT GUIDE: *JESUS REDEEMS*

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person’s life. The best disciple making takes place when students’ parents take the lead. That’s why we’ve created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Black Letters of Jesus* curriculum, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

WHAT ARE THE BLACK LETTERS OF JESUS?

A lot of studies focus on Jesus’ words—the *red* letters of Scripture. But what would it look like if we focused on his actions—the *black* letters? *The Black Letters of Jesus* is a yearlong curriculum based on the things Jesus did while he was here on earth. Some themes may be familiar and some will allow students to see Jesus in a new way. These are lessons drawn from the life of the one who became flesh and lived among his creation.

**Each lesson has a The Black Letters of Jesus statement that describes the main action we’re studying.*

OVERVIEW OF *JESUS REDEEMS* (4 Lessons)

Jesus came to rescue and reconcile. This redemption is the central message of history and the focal point of the Bible. To understand the entirety of the gospel, students must understand that their sin puts them in peril and they need rescue. They also need to understand that Jesus is the only One with the power and purity to forgive sin. Any hope we have of being reconciled to Creator God comes through Jesus, our Rescuer and Redeemer.

MAIN TOPICS AND SCRIPTURE COVERED

| FOR YOU TO KNOW: | FOR YOU TO ASK: |
|--|--|
| <p>1: What Rescuers Know (Matthew 1:18-25) Lesson one uses Matthew 1:18-25 to talk about Jesus coming on a rescue mission for us. Rescuers have a broader perspective and are willing to enter danger to save people.</p> <p><i>The Black Letters of Jesus:</i> <i>Jesus is the only one who can rescue us.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do we need to be rescued from? ▪ How can you tell? |
| <p>2: Headliner (John 3:1-21) Lesson two gets to the heart of the gospel in John 3:1-21. Everything else in history climaxes with the message of the gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus.</p> <p><i>The Black Letters of Jesus:</i> <i>Jesus invites Nicodemus to be part of the greatest story ever told.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What hope does the message of the gospel provide to you? |

3: Faith on the Line (Mark 2:1-11)

Lesson three focuses on the spiritual and physical redemption Jesus offers by looking at the story of a paralytic whose friends lowered him through the roof to see Jesus. Students will examine how their faith plays a role in Jesus' rescue mission, and what it means to be advocates of redemption to a broken world.

The Black Letters of Jesus:

Jesus is on a mission to redeem the world, and he wants us to join him.

- Which of your friends love you enough to carry you to Jesus?
- How do you know?

4: Do You See What I See? (Luke 23:26-43)

Lesson four caps off this lesson set by looking at a doctor's telling of the Crucifixion. From extending mercy to those who crucified him, to offering hope to the thief hanging next to him, Jesus is still on the look-out for those who need his loving care, even moments before his death.

The Black Letters of Jesus:

Jesus never loses sight of the lost and the least.

- Which of your friends needs to hear the gospel?
- How can we pray specifically for them?
- What can we do to help you share with them?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO TOGETHER

LIFE MAPS

Create life maps together. A life map is a visual representation (often a timeline) of the twists and turns of your life. It's like an artistic autobiography.

What to do:

1. Think back over your entire life. What were some of the most meaningful moments? They could be happy or sad. Be sure to include both, because life isn't always one or the other. Make a list of those pivotal moments.
2. Find or create an image or symbol to represent each of those moments.
3. Place those images on the timeline of your life. Positive/happy events above the line and sad/negative events below it.
4. Reflect on how God worked through each event for His purpose. Consider journaling those thoughts as an addendum to the timeline.
5. Share the timeline with other family members and get their perspective on God's hand in each milestone.
6. Discuss the climax of your life thus far. Was it the gospel? Why or why not?
7. Keep the timeline in a family photo album for future reference.

MEMORY VERSES

Each lesson has a corresponding verse to memorize or meditate on.

“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”
John 4:35 (ESV)

JESUS REDEEMS 1:
What Rescuers Know

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:16-17 (ESV)

JESUS REDEEMS 2:
Headliner

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

JESUS REDEEMS 3:
Faith on the Line

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:40b (ESV)

JESUS REDEEMS 4:
Do You See What I See?