

Proof That Jesus Is God



SABBATH—OCTOBER 5

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: John 6:1–14; John 6:14, 15, 26–36; John 9:1–16; John 9:17–34; John 11:38–44.

MEMORY VERSE: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the One Who raises [wakes people up from] the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies. Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this [Bible truth]?’ ” (John 11:25, 26, NLV).



**Jesus made everything
(John 1:1–3).**

THE BIBLE tells us that Jesus is the everlasting Son of God. Jesus and the Father are both God. No one made Jesus. He didn't get His life from anyone else. Jesus made everything (John 1:1–3). Jesus always was alive. So, there was never a time when Jesus didn't live. When Jesus came to this earth, He became a human. But He never stopped being God. At special times, Jesus said certain things or did miracles that showed He was God.

This Bible truth about Jesus is important to John. John talks about some of Jesus' miracles or words to help us understand that Jesus is God. Jesus also showed that His words were truth when He did mighty miracles.

This week, we will study three of Jesus' biggest miracles. These miracles show that Jesus is God. In each story, some people don't believe the miracle. Other people don't understand the miracle's meaning. Some people stopped following Jesus because of the miracle. Other people saw the miracles and wanted to kill Jesus. But some people believed that Jesus was the Savior that God promised.

JESUS FEEDS MORE THAN 5,000 PEOPLE (John 6:1–14)

In John 6:10, John tells us that Jesus fed more than 5,000 people near the time of the Passover. The Passover was a special celebration when the Jews remembered how God saved them from slavery in Egypt. The Passover lamb was killed instead of the firstborn son from each Jewish family. This death showed the future death of Jesus for our sins. Jesus was punished for our sins on the cross. Jesus is our Passover lamb. Jesus died instead of us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

“Jesus accepted the guilt for our sins. Then the Father hid His face from Jesus. When the Father hid His face, Jesus died from a broken heart. His life was crushed out. Jesus offered Himself for our sins to save us.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 540, adapted.

Read the story in John 6:1–14. What miracle does Jesus do in this story? In what ways do these verses show us that Jesus and Moses behave alike? Also, why should this miracle help the Jews in Jesus’ day remember the time when God fed the Israelites in the desert after He made them free from slavery in Egypt?

In John 6:1–14, we see many things in this story about Jesus that help us remember Moses during the time of the Exodus. The Exodus was the time when God helped Israel escape from slavery in Egypt. The time of the Passover (John 6:4) celebrates Israel’s Exodus from Egypt. During Passover, Jesus behaved the same as Moses did during the Exodus. (1) Jesus goes up on a mountain (John 6:3). (Moses also went up Sinai.) (2) Jesus tests Philip (John 6:5, 6). (The Israelites were tested in the desert.) (3) Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread. (This miracle helps the Jews remember the miracle with the manna in the desert.) Jesus’ followers collect the leftover food (John 6:12). (In the same way, the Israelites collected the manna in the desert.) Jesus’ followers collect 12 baskets of leftovers, the same number as the 12 family groups of Israel. The Jewish people say that Jesus is the special messenger (John 6:14) that Moses promised would come (Deuteronomy 18:15). All these things help the Jews understand that Jesus is the new Moses. Jesus came to make His people free.

John shows Jesus doing miracles that have special meaning for the Jews. Jesus’ miracles show His people who He is. His miracles show the people that He is God.



All these things help the Jews understand that Jesus is the new Moses.

JESUS IS THE ONE WHO SPEAKS FOR GOD (John 6:14, 15, 26–36)

Read about the miracle in John 6:14, 15, 26–36. What did the people think about this miracle? How did Jesus use this miracle to try to teach the people about who He was?



When Jesus fed 5,000 men, He showed that He was the same as the Bread that gives life.

The Jews expected a Savior to come to earth and save them from the Kingdom of Rome. Two hard things a general must do in war is feed his troops and care for the soldiers who were hurt or dead. Jesus did many miracles that showed He could feed an army and take care of anyone who was hurt or dead.

But Jesus didn't come to feed an army or take care of hurt or dead soldiers. When Jesus fed 5,000 men, He showed that He was the same as the Bread that gives life. The miracle showed that God Himself came down from heaven. Jesus said, "I am the bread that gives life. He who comes to me will never be hungry" (John 6:35, ICB).

Do you see how this announcement about the bread starts with the words "I am"? This announcement is the first of seven announcements Jesus says about Himself in the Book of John that start with the words "I am." Each of the seven "I am" announcements connects with a special word picture that shows us who Jesus is. Let's look more closely at the list of seven "I am" announcements. (1) Jesus says, "I am the bread that gives life" (John 6:35, ICB). (2) Jesus announces, "I am the light of the world [all the people on earth]" (John 8:12, ICB). (3) Jesus also says, "I am the gate" (John 10:7, 9, ERV) or "the door" (ICB). (4) Jesus says, "I am the 'Good Shepherd'" (John 10:11, 14, NLV). (5) Jesus says, "I am the One Who raises [wakes up] the dead and gives them life" (John 11:25, NLV). (6) Jesus says, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6, NLV). (7) Finally, Jesus says, "I am the true [real] Vine" (John 15:1, NLV). Each of these seven word pictures helps us understand an important Bible truth about Jesus. Also, the "I am" word pictures help us remember Exodus 3. In Exodus 3, God shows Himself to Moses as the Mighty One, who is the I AM (compare with John 8:58). Jesus is the I AM.

Sad to say, the people in Jesus' day didn't understand this important Bible truth. The people looked for a Savior who would give them blessings and riches in this life. They didn't want the Bible truth that leads to everlasting life. So, we must be careful. Or we, too, can "fall" into this same "trap."

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN: PART 1 (John 9:1–16)

Read about the blind man in John 9:1–16. What did Jesus’ followers think caused this man to be blind? What did Jesus say to correct the false beliefs of His followers?

Jesus’ followers believed that a person got sick because he sinned. If someone was born blind, then his parents must have sinned. Many Old Testament stories helped Jesus’ followers think that every time someone got sick, it was his fault (compare with Exodus 20:5; 2 Kings 5:15–27; 2 Kings 15:5; 2 Chronicles 26:16–21). But the story about Job should have helped Jesus’ followers to remember that people with faith suffer, too.

Jesus doesn’t say there is no connection between sin and suffering. But Jesus says that sometimes a person’s suffering doesn’t come from anything he did wrong. Sometimes a person suffers because God wants to use that experience to help save other people and honor His Name. The story about the blind man helps us remember the story in Genesis when God made the skies and the earth. In Genesis 2:7, God makes the first man from the dirt. In the same way, Jesus uses clay to heal the blind man’s eyes.

In the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, miracle stories have the same parts: (1) The writer tells us about the problem that needs to be fixed or healed. (2) The person who needs healing comes to Jesus. (3) Jesus heals the sick person. And (4) the sick person praises God for the healing. Often, other people who see the healing praise God, too.

In the story in John 9, John gives us all four parts of the miracle. Then John gives us something more: the miracle’s meaning. The meaning becomes the most important part of the story. The healed man and the spiritual leaders have a long conversation about what his healing means.

John doesn’t tell his readers until chapter 9, verse 14, that Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath. So, the Jewish leaders blame Jesus. The leaders say Jesus breaks the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders believe that Jesus wasn’t from God because He didn’t keep the Sabbath holy. But other people thought that no sinner could do the miracles that Jesus did. The man who was blind sees who Jesus really is. But the leaders do not want to “see” or understand because they cannot accept that Jesus is God.



The story about the blind man helps us remember the story in Genesis when God made the skies and the earth.

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN: PART 2 (John 9:17–34)

Read the rest of the story about the blind man in John 9:17–34. What questions did the Jewish leaders ask the blind man after Jesus healed him? How did the man answer?

John 9:17–34 is the only part of John’s story where the people talk about Jesus, but He is not in the story. John’s story starts when Jesus’ followers ask about the blind man. The followers want to know if the man’s sin or his parents’ sin caused his suffering (John 9:2). In the same way, sin is the topic of conversation in this part of the story, too. The Jewish leaders think Jesus is a sinner because He healed on the Sabbath (John 9:16, 24). The Jewish leaders lie about the healed man. The leaders tell him, “ ‘You have been a bad man ever since you were born!’ ” (John 9:34, WE).

Do you see how everything in the story reverses? The man who was blind now starts to “see” more and more. He sees with his eyes and understands things with his mind that the Jewish leaders refuse to see or believe about Jesus. The Jewish leaders become less and less able to “see” the Bible truth about Jesus (John 9:16). So, they can’t understand where He came from (John 9:29).

John uses this story to tell us who Jesus is. John tells us that Jesus is “ ‘the Light of the world [all people]’ ” (John 9:5, NLV; compare with John 8:12). Jesus is a mystery, too. This story tries to answer some questions about this mystery. Who is Jesus? Where did He come from? What work did He plan to do on earth (John 9:12, 29; compare with John 1:14)? John also talks about Moses in this chapter (John 9:28, 29; compare with John 5:45, 46 and John 6:32). Finally, John talks about how the crowd feels about Jesus. Some people love sin more than Bible truth. Other people accept Jesus in faith (John 9:16–18, 35–41; compare with John 1:9–16; John 3:16–21; John 6:60–71).

The Jewish leaders’ hearts are too hard to understand Jesus. They should have been the first ones to accept Jesus as the Savior. But they reject all the powerful proof God sends them. They cannot learn the truth. Or maybe, they really don’t want to learn it. This story is a powerful warning about how our hearts can trick us into believing a lie.

What important rule do we read about in 1 Corinthians 1:26–29? How can this rule help us today?



John tells us that Jesus is “the Light of the world [all people]” (John 9:5, NLV).

LAZARUS WAKES UP FROM THE DEAD (John 11:38–44)

John 11 is filled with sad news. Lazarus, who is Jesus' dear friend, is very sick (John 11:3, 19, 31, 33). Lazarus's sisters are sad because Jesus let Lazarus die (John 11:21, 32). The story also is sad because Jesus cries (John 11:35).

Jesus waited two days before starting His journey to Lazarus (John 11:6). Jesus said something that surprised His followers. He said that He was glad that He didn't go to Lazarus sooner (John 11:14, 15). Did Jesus care about Lazarus? Of course, He cares! But Jesus knows that waiting will give Him a chance to show God's power. Jesus wanted to honor His Father's Name.

When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' house, Lazarus was dead for four days (John 11:17–27). After four days, Lazarus's body was already rotting. Martha tells Jesus when He arrives, " 'But, Lord, it has been four days since Lazarus died. There will be a bad smell' " (John 11:39, ERV). For sure, Jesus' delay helped make the miracle of waking up Lazarus from the dead more powerful and amazing. Jesus was going to wake up a rotting dead body. What more proof did the Jews need that Jesus was God Himself?!

As God, Jesus was the One who made life. So, Jesus already had power over death. Jesus used the miracle of waking Lazarus up from the dead to teach the Jews an important Bible truth about Himself: " 'I am the one who will raise [wake] people up and give them life. The person who believes in me will live, even though he has died' " (John 11:25, WE).

What did Jesus do to support His words in John 11:25, 26? Read John 11:38–44 for the answer.

Jesus showed that He was the Light for all people (John 8:12; John 9:5) when He helped the blind man see (John 9:7). In the same way, when Jesus wakes up Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43, 44), He shows that He is the Resurrection (He has the power to wake up people from the dead) and the Life (John 11:25). This miracle, more than any other miracle, shows everyone that Jesus is the God who gives us life. This miracle supports John's idea that Jesus is the Son of God. When we believe in Him, He will give us everlasting life (John 20:30, 31). Sad to say, the end of this story shows us something strange (John 11:45–54). Jesus shows He can wake the dead. So, how can the Jewish leaders think that they can stop Jesus if they kill Him?!



Jesus used the miracle of waking Lazarus up from the dead to teach the Jews an important Bible truth about Himself: " 'I am the one who will raise [wake] people up and give them life.' "

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “The Crisis in Galilee,” pages 383–394; “‘Lazarus, Come Forth,’” pages 524–536; and “Priestly Plottings,” pages 537–542, in *The Desire of Ages*.

“The life of Jesus will give life to everyone on earth. This life is in Jesus’ words. With His words, Jesus healed disease and commanded demons to come out of people. With His words, Jesus commanded the sea to be quiet. With His words, Jesus woke up the dead. The people saw that Jesus spoke with power. He spoke the word of God in the same way that God used the special messengers in the Old Testament to talk to His people. The whole Bible shows us Jesus. The Savior wanted His followers to put their faith in the Bible. When Jesus left them and went back to heaven, His followers needed to trust in the Bible. They must live as Jesus lived. ‘Their lives depend on what God says.’ Matthew 4:4 [ERV].

“Food supports our bodies. In the same way, the Bible supports our spiritual lives. Every person must get life for himself from the Bible. We must eat for ourselves to get strength from our food. In the same way, we must read the Bible for ourselves. We must not accept what someone else tells us the Bible says. Each person must carefully study the Bible. We must ask God to send us the Holy Spirit to help us understand what it says.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 390, adapted.



“Every person must get life for himself from the Bible.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① This week we looked at how Jesus fed more than 5,000 people. Jesus also healed a man born blind. Then Jesus woke up Lazarus from the dead. In each story, Jesus gave powerful proof that He was God. But these miracles, as wonderful as they were, caused the Jews to argue with each other. Some people believed in Jesus. Other people doubted Him. Why do you think that some people reject God, even when there is powerful proof to accept Him?
- ② The stories this week show us that Jesus is the Son of God. Why is this Bible truth so important to our faith and belief in Jesus as the Savior?

NEW LIFE IN COLOMBIA

Pablo never heard of Seventh-day Adventists. Pablo was a leader of the Sikuani people who lived in Colombia. Pablo was far away from his home when he was invited to worship God on the Sabbath.

Someone told Pablo, "This Saturday we will have a meeting."

Pablo went to the morning meeting and saw that the people there studied the Bible. Cristian Camilo, a 25-year-old Bible worker, led the meeting. Pablo went back for the afternoon meeting, where many people asked questions about the Bible. Pablo was surprised that Cristian answered every question from the Bible.

When Pablo got a chance, he asked Cristian his own question. Pablo asked, "What do I need to do to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?"

Cristian said, "We can start Bible studies."

Cristian gave Pablo a set of 20 Bible lessons in the Sikuani language. Pablo was pleased and asked for lessons for the rest of his family.

Cristian gave Pablo a Bible and promised to travel to his community with lessons for his family.

As a Bible worker, Cristian was responsible for a big area in Colombia. Three months passed before Cristian visited Pablo. Cristian traveled with two Sikuani Adventists because he couldn't find Pablo's community without their help.

Pablo welcomed Cristian and announced that he finished studying the 20 Bible lessons. Pablo said he also gave Bible studies to his family and the rest of the community. 15 people were ready to be baptized.

Cristian arrived on a Friday. He spent the rest of the day answering questions about the Bible and deciding if people were ready to get baptized. When sundown came, Cristian led the evening worship program.

On Sabbath, Cristian led the community in worship. After the program, a man said, "There's a lake nearby." Another person said, "We want to be baptized right now!" That Sabbath, five people were baptized, including Pablo, his mother, Pablo's two brothers, and one of his sisters-in-law.

Today, Pablo continues giving Bible studies to his people.

Cristian said, "There are many people, the same as Pablo, who are waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus."

Thank you for your prayers for Bible workers in Colombia and elsewhere who are trying to share the Good News about Jesus with people who don't know Him. Learn about Adventist Mission's work to share the Good News at bit.ly/GMPioneers.

INSIDE *Story*

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



Cristian gave Pablo a set of 20 Bible lessons in the Sikuani language.



Cristian Camilo