

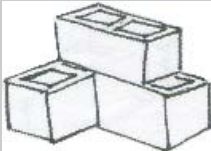
**UNIT ONE**  
**JESUS' LAST**  
**DAYS**

# GOD'S CORNERSTONE

Luke 2:1-7, 41-52; John 20:31

## TEACHER'S PREPARATION

**God's Building Block:**  
**Jesus is God's Cornerstone.**



**WHAT DO WE WANT THE CHILDREN TO LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

They will:

- \* relate the idea of building a house to God's "building plan" for our salvation and for His Church.
- \* understand that Jesus is the "cornerstone" for God's plan to bring salvation to the world.

### MEMORY VERSE

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:6



### STUDY THE BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember that this year's Lessons emphasize **building**. First, we will look at the end of Jesus' earthly life. We will see that it was the Father's plan to use Jesus' to bring salvation to all people. Jesus is the Cornerstone of God's plan to bring salvation to mankind. Stories from the book of Acts show how God began to build His Church.

Lesson 1 introduces the "building" theme for this year's lessons. Helping the children to think about the way a house is built will prepare them to understand the ideas in this year's lessons.



### WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THIS LESSON?

1. Picture 1, "Jesus did miracles" for Bible Story Part 3.
2. For the Introduction, simple tools for building; a person who is knowledgeable about building to talk to the children; if possible, a site near the church where a building is going up.
3. For Bible Story Part 3, bring Book 2 of this series or other pictures of Jesus' ministry and miracles.
4. For the Conclusion, a string or strong thread measuring about six feet in length; two A-4 sheets of paper. Fold each of them in half. Write "Jesus is born" on one of them. On the other, write "Jesus returns to heaven." (See p. 5.)



## BEGIN THE LESSON

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

#### Introduction

- ◆ **SHOW** the building tools you brought. Ask the children to tell you the names of the tools and how they are used. **TALK** about the way a house or other building is built. **ASK** questions about building, such as — *How many of you have seen a house being built? How long might it take to build a large strong house? What other things are needed for building a house, besides the tools we have here?*
- ◆ **INTRODUCE** the person you brought to class who is going to talk about building. Let him talk about building a house. As he tells about this, list on the blackboard the steps to building a house (making a plan, digging a foundation, laying the cornerstone, laying the rest of the foundation, putting up the walls, etc.). He should emphasize the importance of the cornerstone. If possible, take the children outside for a short walk to see a house which is being built.
- ◆ **EXPLAIN** that this year our stories will be about a different kind of building—God building His Church. Our first lessons will help us think about how God laid the foundation for His building. In today's lesson we will review some things you may already know about Jesus' coming and His growing-up years.

**1. When Jesus came (Luke 2:1-7)**

- ASK the children to think about Christmas. Let some of the children mention special things their family does at Christmas. (Examples—eating a special meal together, going to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, exchanging gifts with friends, etc.)
- REMIND them of the reason for Christmas—to celebrate Jesus' coming to earth.
- LIST on the blackboard events and people related to Jesus' birth (Examples—Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem, the shepherds worshipping Jesus, Anna and Simeon greeting Jesus in the temple, the wise men traveling to worship Jesus, fleeing to Egypt, return to Israel and move to Nazareth, etc.)

**2. Jesus grew up (Luke 2:41-52)**

- REMIND them of what we know about Jesus' growing-up years—
  - He grew up in the town of Nazareth, where His earthly father, Joseph, was a carpenter. He helped His father and learned the skill of carpentry.
  - His family was poor, so they probably lived in a small house with one room.
  - He probably attended the school for boys in the synagogue where the rabbi (teacher) taught them the Law from the Old Testament.
  - In their home Joseph told stories about the ancient people of God—Abraham, Jacob, Moses, etc.
- Briefly tell about when Jesus and His earthly parents visited the temple (Luke 2:41-52).
- Remind them that Jesus was like other boys growing up in Israel in those days. But He was different in an important way—He never sinned! Read Luke 2:52.

**3. Jesus begins His ministry**

- READ Luke 3:23a.
- SHOW pictures from Book 2 of some of Jesus' miracles. ASK questions to revise the events of Jesus' early ministry.
- SHOW Picture 1.
- READ John 20:31. EXPLAIN that Jesus used His miracles to show people His Father, and to bring them to faith in Himself as the only way to have eternal life. Write on the blackboard: "Jesus came that we might have life."

**4. Jesus is the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6-8)**

- REMIND them of the building process we talked about in the Introduction. The first step in building is to have a plan and then to lay the foundation. God's plan was to send Jesus to earth to pay for the sins of all people through His death.
- SHOW a large block or stone which represents the "cornerstone." READ 1 Peter 2:6. Peter wrote this verse, quoting from the Old Testament. Peter was referring to Jesus when he wrote these words.
- EXPLAIN that during the next few lessons we will learn about Jesus' last days before He died. We will see that all the things that happened to Jesus happened as part of God's plan to bring salvation.

**To Conclude The Lesson ...**

\* Let a child hold each end of the string you brought. Explain that we will use the string to show the time between Jesus' life before and after He died. Hang the two folded papers (**Jesus' born, Jesus returns to heaven**) on either end. The events we will learn about happened after Jesus birth and before He returned to heaven.

► **Teach Memory Verse now (1 Peter 2:6).**

**PRAYER:** Encourage several children to pray, thanking Jesus for coming to earth and for the different miracles He did. Thank Jesus for bringing us life and salvation.

**SONG:** "Jesus is the rock of my salvation" 🎵

**God's Building Block:** *Jesus is God's Cornerstone.*