



Date: _____
Series: Jesus is Our King
Winter Year 2, Lesson 28

Get Real (Jesus Came for Real)

Take Home Point: *Jesus is the answer to our puzzles. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 24:13-45 Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the Messiah.

Key Verse: Acts 10:43, "In addition, all the prophets testify that people who believe in the one named Jesus receive forgiveness for their sins through him."

We will help kids know:

- Old Testament prophets from different times of history predicted different truths about the coming Messiah. These were all fulfilled in Jesus.
- Just as Jesus fit the puzzle of prophecies from the Old Testament, Jesus can answer the puzzles in our lives.




We will help kids feel:

- Awed as they consider how God wrote the Bible through many different people in many different times, but all pointed to Jesus.
- Comfort in knowing Jesus as a Savior who is real and alive and ready to guide us, even through that which puzzles us.

We will help kids do:

- Identify areas in their lives that puzzle them.
- Pray, asking Jesus to help guide them through life's puzzling questions.
- Construct a puzzle piece Christmas card that helps them share their faith in Christ and reminds them of how God leads us through life's puzzles.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids will try to solve a puzzle and discuss situations in their lives that seem puzzling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> four rectangular blocks, such as small wooden blocks or large blocks of 2"x4" wood. <i>Option:</i> Cardboard building blocks
Large Group 	5 8 12 14	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Real!" – Gordy the astronaut contacts the Command Center to get real answers she needs to her problem. Gordy finds out that the first stage of the Countdown to Christmas is...Get Real!</p> <p>Interactive game: "Jesus Christ—God's Answer to Our Puzzle"—An interactive game is played to illustrate how Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled in the New Testament. The answer to the puzzle is CHRIST.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Real!"—Gordy finds out that Jesus is the answer to puzzles in our life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> game board—write the name CHRIST on a sheet of butcher paper 52" long by 33" high with a marker or spray paint. Use large, creative lettering to fill most of the sheet. Make two sets of the phrases (p. 15-23) using different colored copy paper for each set: i.e. one set copied on green and the other set copied on red. Using movable tape, randomly tack the copy paper over the name CHRIST to look like a checkerboard. "Fulfilled Prophecy" reference sheet (p. 14) Gordy and Gerdy simulated cockpit setting for Gerdy Command Central setting
Small Group Application 	5	Life is full of sticky questions that are hard to answer. Kids think of puzzling questions they might like to ask God, and make a craft to remind them that Jesus is the answer to life's puzzles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fulfilled Prophecy" reference sheet (p. 14) white school glue construction paper for each child and shepherd an old Christian Christmas card for each child scissors markers

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

In this small group activity we want kids to examine questions in their lives that puzzle them. They will apply the truth that Jesus is the answer to life's puzzles later in the lesson.

In advance, set up four rectangular blocks in the shape of an "X" as demonstrated below. (See Figure A.) These blocks could be small wooden blocks or large blocks made from 2"x4"s or 2"x6"s. Cardboard building blocks would work as well.

You will challenge the children to make a square by moving only one block. (See Figure B.) Save the explanation until later.

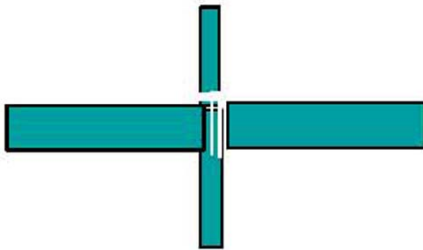


Figure A

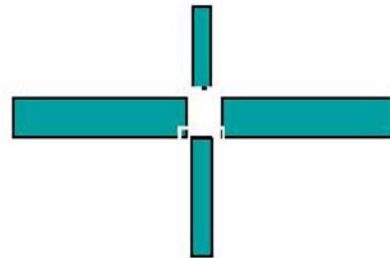


Figure B

To begin, ask:

Do you like to solve puzzles? Sometimes we work and work at a puzzle and can't seem to find an answer. When someone shows us how it works, we have the answer.

This morning I'm going to give you a puzzle to work on. See if you can solve it. I will give you the answer at the end of the time.

See the four blocks in the shape of an "X"? Use these blocks to make a square by moving only one of the blocks.

Once the kids have sufficiently been stumped by the puzzle, continue with the following:

It's frustrating when you can't solve a puzzle, isn't it? Sometimes there are things in our lives that seem like puzzles. As hard as we think about them, we can't understand why they happen.

What are some things in life that puzzle you—or what are some questions about life that puzzle you? *(Examples might include: Why are some people born with diseases or sicknesses? Why did my parents have to get divorced? Why wasn't I born smarter than I am?)*

Conclude the discussion with:

We may not have the answers to our puzzles, but God does. We may not understand the answer, or it may take a long time until we do, but God gives us an answer that makes our world so much better. He answers not with “why” but “who.” His answer is Jesus. Jesus can really help us. Today we will discover that **Jesus is the answer to our puzzles.*

Everything that was said about Jesus in the Old Testament came true when Jesus came to earth. All the things predicted in the Old Testament are called prophecies because they tell us something before it actually happens.

People living before Jesus knew God had promised to send a special savior who could answer their problems. They just didn't know who that would be. Today we will see how Jesus is the one that the Old Testament prophecies predicted.

And now, here's how to solve this puzzle of making a square while moving only one of the blocks.

Move one block so a square is made in the space between all four blocks. (Figure B)

There is your square, and there is your answer. The answer even looks like the cross, which reminds us of God's answer for us: Jesus.

As we get ready for Christmas, we want to discover how Jesus, God's Son, came as a fulfillment of the prophecies from the Old Testament. Fulfillment means something came true. The Old Testament prophets each had a little piece of the puzzle in regard to what the promised Messiah would be like. Each prophetic puzzle piece fit together in the real answer of Jesus. In our lives, the real answer is Jesus, as well.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Real!” –Gerdy the astronaut contacts the Command Center to get real answers she needs to her problem. Gordy finds out that the first stage of the Countdown to Christmas is...Get Real!

Interactive game: “Jesus Christ—God’s Answer to Our Puzzle.”—An interactive game is played to illustrate how Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled in the New Testament. The answer to the puzzle is **CHRIST**.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Real!”—Gordy finds out that Jesus is the answer to puzzles in our life.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Who can remember some of the prophecies that were told about Jesus hundreds of years before he was born?

See the appendix, “Fulfilled Prophecy.” Have the children look up at least one Old Testament reference to see how it is fulfilled in the corresponding New Testament reference.

Help kids see that several different writers wrote these prophecies at different times, yet all were fulfilled in the person of Jesus.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Do you think that people who lived several hundreds of years before Jesus were ever puzzled by some of the prophecies spoken about him? Why or why not? *(It might be worth pointing out that many of the people thought that the coming Messiah would be one who would be a great political leader and would free them from Rome’s governing rule. Instead, Jesus came as a King to free our souls from the governing rule of sin by dying on the cross.)*

How are all the different prophecies like puzzle pieces? *(Each told a little bit of information about the coming Messiah. When viewed altogether, they give the complete picture of Jesus.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

There are two ways we are talking about puzzles in today's lesson. The first way is how Jesus is the real answer to all of the Old Testament puzzle pieces of prophecy. The second way is that, as we have puzzles to life's questions, Jesus is the answer to these puzzles as well.

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: Bible reference sheet—"Fulfilled prophecy," old Christmas cards and construction paper for each child and shepherd, glue, scissors, and markers.

Take a sheet of construction paper and put several drops of white school glue randomly around the page. Ask one child to close his eyes, turn his head, and attempt to drag his finger across the page without touching any glue drops. The only way he can do this is to have another child verbally coach him so he can avoid the glue drops.

Think of these glue drops. They are like some of the sticky questions we have in our lives. These are questions that are hard to answer. Can you think of any puzzling questions you might like to ask God? We have talked about some of them already. For example, "Why did my friend have to get sick with cancer and die?" *(Personal examples from you might be helpful to prompt kids with their own puzzling questions.)*

Recall some of the questions the kids discussed in opening warm up.

Many of these questions we ask begin with the word "why." Why did this happen? Why did that happen? Sometimes, we may never understand why God lets certain things happen.

We can understand "who," though, and that is Jesus. He asks that we will trust him and follow him, even if we do not understand why certain things are happening around us. Jesus leads us through the stickiness of life just like *(name of child who did the glue maze)'s* **partner led him/her through the maze of glue drops.**

Jesus wants to guide us. We allow him to lead us as we pray and trust him as our real Savior and our real answer. Jesus came to earth to be God's answer, the "who" to all of our puzzling questions of "why."

The Bible says in Acts 10:43, "In addition, all the prophets testify that people who believe in the one named Jesus receive forgiveness for their sins through Him." *Jesus truly is the answer to our puzzles.

Craft: Use old Christmas cards and cut them into puzzle pieces. Reconstruct them on a sheet of construction paper with gaps between the puzzle lines. The overall picture should be recognizable, but it is evident that the puzzle piece shapes have been cut. The gaps in between the puzzle pieces will remind them that often we can't see the entire puzzle put together in our lives, but Jesus can. The title of this card can be printed at the top –**Jesus is the answer to life's puzzles.**

This card can be kept by the students as a reminder when they face life's puzzles, or it can be given to a friend going through a puzzling time. A personal message of encouragement can be written on the back.

Hint: For younger children, this craft might be too complicated. Children will have an easier time cutting and gluing one piece at a time rather than cutting up the entire card at once.

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer, concentrating on any specific puzzling questions that the children have discussed in their small group time.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Countdown to Christmas Blast Off:

Get Real! (Stage One)

Puppet Presentation

The setting for this puppet script is in the simulated cockpit of a shuttle destined for outer space. Gordy's sister, Gerdy, is the astronaut seeking the quest to find God. She is speaking to her Command Central, which is composed of Gordy and Mr. King (now Commander King). She will need another puppet stage that can be made from cardboard and aluminum foil. The top window of her rocket needs to be visible so she can be seen

Another option is to have her puppet stage off stage and filmed on a video camcorder. If this camcorder has a line directly feeding into a TV at Command Central, it will add to the effect. The trick to this presentation is that Gerdy's part needs to be videotaped ahead of time, and her lines need to be in sync with what Gordy and Commander King will be saying to her. Everyone must follow their script very carefully to make the conversations fit together

Gerdy's video image will be projected on the video screens next to Command Central. Any special decorations for Command Central and Gerdy's cockpit will add to the effectiveness of this entire series.

This puppet play is part of a four-part series that will tie together the lessons before Christmas. It would be a time-saver to record all of Gerdy's segments in one setting and on one tape.

Commander King: Hello, kids. Welcome to Command Central as we are preparing for our countdown to Christmas Blast Off. The countdown is: Get Real, Get Right, Get Ready, and Get Wrapping. Each of the next four weeks we will do one of the countdown stages. So, today we... Get Real. Now, let's get Gordy out here at Command Central. Gordy, are you there?

Gordy: Gordy here.

Commander King: And now, I would also like to introduce you to Astronaut Gerdy.

Gordy: Yeah! She's my sister. It's about time we blasted her off to outer space.

Commander King: Gordy, stop teasing.

Gordy: Okay, but it's still going to be fun to blast her off into outer space!

Commander King: **She is attempting a blast off in a mission to find God. Let's see if I can tune her in now as she prepares herself in the space shuttle, Nativity One. Gordy, can you turn on the monitors and reach Nativity One?**

Gordy: You've got it! This is Command Central. Gordy, are you there?

Gerdy appears on screen or comes appears in the puppet stage.

Gerdy: ***Hello, Command Central, this is Astronaut Gerdy preparing for a mission.***

Commander King: What is your mission?

Gerdy: ***Well, my mission is to find God. Today, I'm on Stage One of getting to blast off.***

Gordy: Okay, Sis. What's Stage One?

Gerdy: ***Stage one is to adjust all these dials and buttons on the space shuttle.***

Gordy: What buttons and dials?

Gerdy: ***Well, there's a doo-bopper, a thing-a-ma-doodle, a widgit, and . . . Wow! It looks very puzzling to me.***

Commander King: Didn't you learn what they were at space mission training?

Gerdy: ***I learned what they were at training but that was already last week! This is this week. I forgot! What will I ever do?***

Gordy: Astronaut Gerdy, I can help you.

Gerdy: ***No, I need real help! I need real answers on how to fly this thing.***

Commander King: Gordy, maybe I can help.

Gerdy: ***How can you help me, Commander King?***

Commander King: Gerdy, if you need real answers, why don't you check the manual? The directions for flying the shuttle would give you some real answers.

Gerdy: *Oh, that's a great idea. There's the manual. Yeah, doo-bopper, thing-a-ma-doodle – it's all right here. Real answers!*

Gordy: You mean she's got real answers for stuff like that?

Commander King: Well, I think so, Gordy. By following the manual she has some real answers. Today we are talking about finding real answers for life.

Gordy: How are we doing that?

Commander King: We are on a mission to find God. Stage one of that mission is to get real.

Gordy: Get real? What do you mean?

Commander King: To find God, we will need real answers. We will discover that God sent the real person, Jesus, to answer the puzzle for people who were expecting a Savior.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Commander King: For hundreds of years, the prophets talked about God sending a Savior. Sometimes it seemed like a puzzle to them as to who this would be. When Jesus came, he was the real answer to their puzzle, and he is the real answer for finding God. We can find out all about it in this manual.

Hold up a Bible.

Gordy: That's the Bible.

Commander King: You are right. It is our instruction manual for finding the real answer, Jesus. So, let's get real! I wonder how Gerdy is doing.

Continue ad-libbing and trying to call Gerdy while watching the screen, since it may be difficult for Gerdy's timing to enter at this precise moment.

Gerdy: *Hello, Command Central. I found it, and the answers are here in the manual. I've got the doo-bopper and thing-a-ma-doodle working. Now if I just pull this widgit then I*

will tune out until next week. Getting ready for the countdown. Let me see if it works. Signing out!

Screen goes dead.

Gordy: Commander King, I'm kind of confused. We're supposed to get real answers from the manual, right?

Commander King: **That's right, Gordy.**

Gordy: Well, how does the Bible give us real answers?

Commander King: **It gives us real answers to who Jesus was. As a matter of fact, why don't we play a game that will show you how the Bible gives us real answers to show Jesus was the *promised one* the prophets talked about in the Old Testament?**

Gordy: Do I get to play?

Commander King: **No, we'll let the kids play, and you help at Command Central. I'll talk to you about it afterward.**

Gordy: Roger and out!

Go to the interactive game, ***"Jesus Christ—God's Answer to Our Puzzle."***

Jesus Christ—God's Answer to Our Puzzle

Interactive Game

This is a matching game played like Concentration using the kids' memory to solve the puzzle.

In advance: To prepare the game board, write the name **CHRIST** on a sheet of butcher paper 52" long by 33" high with a marker or spray paint. Use large, creative lettering to fill most of the sheet. Make two sets of the phrase cards found in the appendix using different colored copy paper for each set. One color (for example green) will represent the Old Testament and the other color (perhaps red) will represent the New Testament. Using movable tape, randomly tack the phrase cards face down over the name **CHRIST** to look like a checkerboard.

The object of the game is to match a phrase on green paper with its identical phrase on red paper. When a match is made, the large group presenter reads the Old Testament prophecy verse and the New Testament verse that is fulfilled in Jesus (see appendix: "Fulfilled Prophecy" sheet).

Let the boys challenge the girls. Have a team of four boys and a team of four girls comes forward. The teams will take turns trying to find the match and solve the puzzle. The teams take turns pointing to a green card and then pointing to a red card to find the match. (It will be faster if the large group presenter or another helper turns over the cards as the children pick them.) If a team gets a match correct, the phrase cards are removed and that team gets another turn. They also have a chance to guess the large hidden word underneath.

If they do not get the match correct, the cards are replaced and the other team takes a turn. The name **CHRIST** should not be apparent until almost all matches have been revealed. Whichever team can guess the final word is the winner. **Jesus Christ is the answer to our puzzles.*

The large group presenter reveals the answer piece by piece as each of the prophecies are read. The key to this presentation is to keep it moving quickly and to keep the kids guessing as to what the puzzle will ultimately say. (This should take only 7 minutes.)

An option is to have a child read the Old Testament reference and the large group leader read the fulfillment in the New Testament. The main point must come through clearly: **Jesus Christ is the answer to our puzzles.*

After the game, conclude with the following:

In the Old Testament, hundreds of years before Jesus, people had only promises from God that he would send a Savior. Each of the different prophets had different pictures of whom this Savior would be and what would happen. They were like different puzzle pieces. For an example, one prophet saw that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem, another prophet saw that he would be silent at his trial. The people often wondered, “When would God fulfill his promise? When would he send us a Savior?”

When Jesus came, all of the puzzle pieces fit together. He was known as “the Christ.” Christ means “the Promised One” or “the Anointed One.” It means that he was the one called the Messiah who the prophets waited for. Still, many of them doubted that Jesus could truly be the one. But you can see—that he is the REAL Christ.

As we get ready for Christmas, we want to get the REAL answer to our life’s puzzle. We want to follow the REAL promised one, Jesus Christ...the one whom the prophets told us about long ago. **Jesus Christ is the answer to our puzzles.*

**Countdown To Christmas Blast Off:
Get Real! (Stage One)**
Puppet Presentation Conclusion

- Gordy: Wow, Commander King! That's something how all those prophecies came true, like puzzle pieces.
- Commander King:** **Yes, and it all pointed to the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the *Promised One* that God promised from long ago.**
- Gordy: But how does Jesus give me real answers today?
- Commander King:** **Well, you will have a chance to talk about that in your small group. Sometimes when life is puzzling and we can't figure out the answers, God tells us to trust Jesus. He is real and that is the only answer we need. Why don't you close with prayer?**
- Gordy: Okay. Dear God, We're getting ready for the Christmas countdown here, and we're thinking about Jesus and how he was an answer to the puzzle of how you promised to send a Savior. But, we need help with our puzzles, too, because some questions in life are puzzling to us. So help show us how Jesus can be real to us and answer some of our puzzles. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FULFILLED PROPHECY THAT SHOWS JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE PROMISED ONE.

Old Testament	New Testament
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Throne of David</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 9:7</i> "His government and peace will have unlimited growth. He will establish David's throne..."</p>	<p><i>Luke 1:32-33</i> "...The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Born in Bethlehem</i></p> <p><i>Micah 5:2</i> "You Bethlehem...from you, Israel's future ruler will come..."</p>	<p><i>Luke 2:4</i> "...Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Born of a Virgin</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 7:14</i> "A virgin will become pregnant...and she will name him Immanuel."</p>	<p><i>Luke 1:27</i> "...The angel went to a virgin...The virgin's name was Mary."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Escape to Egypt</i></p> <p><i>Hosea 11:1</i> "...and I called my son out of Egypt."</p>	<p><i>Matthew 2:14</i> Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left for Egypt..."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rejected by the Jews</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 53:3</i> "He was despised and rejected by people."</p>	<p><i>John 1:11</i> "He went to his own people, and his own people didn't accept him."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>King On a Donkey</i></p> <p><i>Zechariah 9:9</i> "...Your King is coming to you...He is humble and rides on a donkey."</p>	<p><i>Mark 11:7-11</i> "They brought the donkey to Jesus...and he sat on it. ...Those who we followed him were shouting 'Hosanna!...Blessed is our ancestor David's kingdom that is coming!'"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Silent to Accusations</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 53:7</i> "...he didn't open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter."</p>	<p><i>Mark 15:4</i> "...Pilate asked him again, 'Don't you have any answer?' ...But Jesus no longer answered anything..."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Soldiers Gambled For His Clothes</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 22:18 (NIV)</i> "...and for my clothes, they cast lots."</p>	<p><i>Matthew 27:35,36</i> " They divided up his clothes among themselves by throwing dice..."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Bones Broken</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 34:20</i> "He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken."</p>	<p><i>John 19:33</i> "When the soldiers saw that he was already dead they didn't break his legs."</p>

Throne Of David

Born in Bethlehem

Born of

a

Virgin

Escape

to

Egypt

Rejected

by

Jews

King

on a

Donkey

Silent at the Trial

**Soldiers
Gambled
for His
Clothes**

**No
Bones
Broken**