



# BECAUSE HE LIVES

## Jesus was Questioned

### March 7- 1 year olds and 2 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 22; Mark 12; Luke 20

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:8

**BOTTOM LINE:** I can always trust Jesus' answers when I have questions.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is the Word of God, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Jesus has authority in heaven and on earth.

#### Context

The religious leaders despised Jesus. He was a threat to their power, and they didn't believe He was the Messiah. The Jews decided to confront Jesus with questions. Perhaps He would misspeak, and they could trap Him with His words. The Pharisees' disciples asked Him, "Teacher, is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

As far as these men were concerned, Jesus could not give a satisfactory answer to this question. If Jesus said God's law required them to pay taxes to Caesar, they could get the Jewish people- who hated paying taxes to the Romans- to turn away from Jesus. If Jesus said God's law did not require them to pay taxes to Caesar, they could convince the Romans to arrest Jesus. But Jesus answered wisely: "Give... to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt 22:21) The men were speechless, and they left.

Then an expert in the law asked Jesus which command in God's law is most important. The Pharisees knew the law well and felt prepared to argue. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then He emphasized a second command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). These commands summarize the rest of the law, and the Pharisees could not object.

Jesus turned the tables and asked the Pharisees about the Messiah: "Whose son is he?" The Pharisees recognized the Messiah as the son of David. Jesus referred to Psalm 110, in which David calls the Messiah "Lord". Why would he do that? The Pharisees had no answer. As fully man, Jesus is the son of David. But as fully God, He is greater than David; He is Lord. No one dared to question Jesus again.

When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He has authority in heaven on earth.

#### TAKEAWAYS

- The religious leaders of Jesus' time were threatened by Him and they tried to trap Him with some tricky questions.
- No matter what question Jesus was asked, He answered it correctly because He is God.
- Jesus came not only to teach truth but also to show us who God is and how we should live.
- **Bottom Line:** I can always trust Jesus' answers when I have questions.

### **Social Activity: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt**

**What You Need:** Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Printable (1 per group), plastic eggs, and other objects on the scavenger hunt list, basket

**What You Do:**

Before you begin, ask a leader to help you hide the objects for the hunt around the room.

Break kids into teams of 2. As you read the items on the scavenger hunt list, send one team of 2 at a time to find the object hidden in the room. Celebrate with kids as they return with the objects they have found.

"Spring is right here around the corner and spring makes me think of Easter. Our game today really gets me excited about celebrating Easter with you. Our Bibles stories are going to help us remember Jesus' last week on earth as we prepare to celebrate Easter together. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

**Small Group Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

### **Introduce the Story**

"Some of the teachers wanted to trick Jesus to get Him in trouble. First they asked, "Teacher, should we pay taxes to Caesar?" Jesus asked the men whose picture was on the coin. It was Caesar's! "Give Caesar what belongs to him," Jesus said. Then they asked, "What is the most important of God's rules to obey?" Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Then love others as yourself." Jesus asked them a question. He said, "Whose Son is the Messiah?" The teachers said, "David's son." Jesus asked, "Why did David call the Messiah 'Lord' if He was his son?" After that, they did not want to ask Jesus any more questions."

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

Check diapers and listen to a worship song

### **Application Activity: Decorate a "J"**

**What You Need:** "J" is for Jesus printable (1 per kid), heart shaped stickers or stamps

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a "J is for Jesus" printable. Set out a variety of heart shaped stickers or stamps.
- Invite kids to fill the inside of the J with heart stickers, covering it completely.
- Retell the Bible story.

**What You Say** "Hearts remind us of love. People asked Jesus, "What command is most important?" Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all you heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." When the religious leaders asked Jesus questions, Jesus spoke with wisdom. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He came to show us what God is like. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us. How did Jesus save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **Why did the religious leaders come to ask Jesus difficult questions?** (to trap Him in His words, catch Him saying something wrong; Mark 12:13)
- **What are the greatest and second greatest commandments?** (to love God with all we have and to love others as ourselves; Mark 12:29-31)
- **How was Jesus able to answer those tricky questions so well?** Guide kids to think about Jesus' identity. Remind them that, though Jesus is fully human, He is also fully God. Jesus has the wisdom and authority of God and was able to see through the religious leaders' schemes.
- **How can we answer with wisdom if people challenge our knowledge of God or the Bible?** Help kids see that the source of wisdom is God Himself. Remind them that God gives wisdom generously to all who ask Him for it in faith. (See James 1:5) Explain that we gain wisdom by studying God's Word (the Bible), praying, gathering with other believers, and following the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- **When is it difficult to trust Jesus' wisdom and authority?** Guide kids to speak honestly about their lives. Acknowledge the difficulty of trusting Jesus in hard or sad times. Help them see that we can trust Him even when we do not understand His plan or why difficult things are happening.