



Objective of the study

Although it can stand alone, this study is designed to go along with the *My Son, My Savior* movie using the faith journey of Mary to help participants understand the true nature of Jesus as true God and true man who entered our world, so we could enter his. The study should help participants grasp the central importance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, so we could be members of his family. The primary focus is not on Mary, but on God's gracious activity of fulfilling his plan of salvation through Jesus.

Approach

The leader does not need to teach everything in the lesson but should choose what is most appropriate or needed for the audience and time. You could split the lessons into segments and...assign some for homework, or have different groups work on separate sections during the lesson to report back or split into additional lessons...or just skip sections not needed to make your main point for the lesson.

Each session is formatted with questions/discussion starters on pages 1 & 2. A narrative, printed on pages 3 & 4, provides background information and material for further study. If there is time, you or someone in the group can read sections of the narrative as they correspond to the sections on pages 1 & 2. If there isn't enough time, you may refer to the narrative pages and give a brief introduction to each section on the first two pages. You might want to emphasize some sections of the narrative by reading just those sections. The narrative pages are also valuable for participants to take home and study on their own.

MS-Word files are provided so that you can customize the lessons as you see fit.

It's beneficial if participants have the opportunity to view the entire movie before the study begins. You could schedule a screening of the movie before the first study session, talk about some of its main themes, and encourage viewers to participate in the upcoming class. Otherwise, you could give people a DVD of the movie for viewing on their own.

One chapter of the movie is scheduled for showing at each session. See below for the chapter titles and scenes that will be covered each time.

NOTE: The DVD contains the chapter selections from the menu: Scenes Selections For Bible Study. When you select a chapter, the movie will start at that point, but be aware that it will continue to play until the end of the movie. So ahead of time, note at what scene the next chapter starts so that you can stop the movie at the proper point.

Bible Study Outline

- **Session One – Living with Hope**

Movie scenes:

- Young Mary at Passover: “Why does the lamb have to die? It did nothing wrong.”
- Gabriel visits Mary – “Nothing is impossible with God”
- Visit with Elizabeth—Magnificat: God fulfilled his promise to Abraham...
- John born—the forerunner
- Joseph’s dream: “You shall call him Jesus—Savior”

- **Session Two – Heaven enters Earth**

Movie scenes:

- Birth in Bethlehem, prophecies, shepherds, wise men
- Simeon, Anna
- Flight to Egypt, Herod’s wrath
- Boy Jesus at the temple teaching – teachers listen to THE teacher
- John the Baptist preaching at the river – “Behold the Lamb of God”

- **Lesson Three – A New Relationship Emerges**

Movie scenes:

- Wedding at Cana
- Healing of Mary Magdalene and the invalid
- Teaching in synagogue
- Teaching in house

- **Lesson Four – When Death brings Life**

Movie scenes:

- John the Baptist in prison.
- Jesus suffering and dying on the cross – “It is finished”
- Jesus’ resurrection and appearance to disciples.
- Mary blessed to call Jesus her son...and her Savior.

Objective for Each Session

Session One: Participants should be able to recognize how God works through people even in seemingly impossible situations, like Mary, to fill important roles in his plan to bring salvation to the world and through them to bring hope to the world. In faith, we trust that he is equipping us for our role in his plan too.

Session Two: Participants should be able to verbalize the nature of Christ as true God and true man and to recognize how God prepares hearts by calling them to repentance to believe and trust in him for real peace.

Session Three: Participants should be drawn to the miracles and message of Jesus to understand that he IS the Message that God brought into the world. Opposition to Jesus is a rejection of the eternal life he came to bring and the intimate relationship with him as the family of God.

Session Four: Participants should be able to recognize that the realities of suffering in our world are more evidence of sin. The Lamb of God came not only to live a perfect life but to be the substitute sacrifice for our sins, so we could stand innocent and holy in the presence of God forever.

Suggestions for Session Flow

1. Start each session by capturing the joys, struggles, or concerns participants had that week ... praying related to input and asking the Holy Spirit's guidance on the study.
2. Spend a moment recounting the main point of the previous lesson and touching on last week's assignment – how participants “put it into practice.”
3. Set the tone with the opening question – break into small groups when possible.
4. View the “My Son, My Savior” movie segment. Get feedback to find out what struck them most and what questions emerge for them (write them down and come back to those questions at an appropriate place in the lesson).
5. Dig deeper with each segment by working through the passages and related questions. If time is of the essence, merely draw their attention to key points in some segments so that you can slow down to better work through segments you (or they) determine are most applicable for them. Keep the flow on track but don't let it feel rushed during the class or crowded at the end.
6. Refer to (or go to) sidebar references where you can go deeper into the topics if needed.
7. End by recapping the main point, make assignments, (the *Put it into Practice* section and/or those questions or sections you went through too quickly) and offer a closing prayer.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional resources are posted on the Movie Resource Center:

- A more detailed Leader's Guide
- Leader's Notes: Suggested answers to the questions and discussion topics of each session
- Study materials for Small Groups, and Personal Reflections
- Advent by Candlelight guide
- Movie pictures and poster for use to help with promotion