

— BUILDING LIFE —  
**CASTLES**

**by Cherie Noel**

## **Building Life Castles - Student Manual**

First Edition by Cherie Noel

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# LESSON 1

## Who Is Jesus?

### Vocabulary

- **Deity** – A divine character, nature, or being; the one God
- **God’s Grace** – The goodness that God shares with us; His love, care, or blessing
- **Trinity** – The three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—mysteriously unified as one God
- **Rabbi** – A Jewish teacher or scholar, often on Old Testament Law; sometimes appears as “Master”
- **The Son of God** – A title for Jesus meaning that He has the same nature or being as God
- **Unity** – The state of being one, whole, and at peace

Many people think that Jesus was just a man—a good teacher with important ideas, and nothing more than that. But does Scripture tell us more? In the first part of this book, we’ll look at some important questions:

- ◉ Who is Jesus?
- ◉ What did He do? What did He teach?
- ◉ What does He expect from us? How can we follow Him?

### 1-A The Deity of Jesus

- Imagine you wanted to introduce Jesus to someone who knew nothing about Him. What words would you use to describe Him? Write as many as you can.

*Answers will vary.*

- In your Bible, look up **John 1**. Here the writer John tells us about someone he calls “the Word.” Read **verses 1-4** and then fill in the blanks below.

<b>Verse 1</b>	Since when was the Word with God? <b><i>The beginning</i></b> _____
<b>Verse 1</b>	The Word was <i>with</i> God, and the Word also <b><i>was</i></b> _____ God.
<b>Verse 3</b>	What did the Word make? <b><i>All things</i></b> _____
<b>Verse 3</b>	Was there anything in the beginning that He did <i>not</i> make? <b><i>No.</i></b> _____
<b>Verse 4</b>	In the Word was <b><i>L ife</i></b> _____, which was <b><i>L ight</i></b> _____ to us.

At the very beginning of the Bible, Genesis 1:1 explains that God created the universe. So when John says that the Word made all things, he means that the Word is God.

- Look ahead to **verses 9-12**, which explain how people treated the Word when they met Him.

<b>Verse 9</b>	The True Light offered His light to <b><i>everyone</i></b> _____
<b>Verse 10</b>	Even though He made the world, did everyone in the world know Him? <b><i>No.</i></b> _____
<b>Verse 12</b>	But what did He give those people who received Him and believed Him? (v. 12) <b><i>The right/power to become children/sons of God</i></b> _____ _____

- According to **verses 14-18**, the Word became human and showed people the kind of glory, goodness, and power that only God could have. But who exactly was this person?

- Who showed **God’s grace** and truth to us? ***Jesus Christ*** \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17)

**Complete these big ideas from John 1.**

**A.** The Word is the G O D who created the universe. (vv. 1-3)

**B.** The Word is also the man called J E S U S, who revealed God’s grace and truth. (vv. 14-17)

If **A** and **B** are true, then J E S U S is G O D Himself.



# 1-C Unity Among Believers

Each lesson in this book will ask you to think about what you've learned and how you can use these truths in your everyday life. As we study Jesus in Scripture, God will show us ways that we can think and act like Him. He will build us up to be like Jesus.



- ▶ Read **John 17:20-26**. In this passage, Jesus prays to God the Father. He knows that His work on Earth will finish soon. After He returns to heaven, He wants His followers to stay loving and unified. Just as the Father and Son are one, Jesus wants Christians to be one together.
  - ◉ Look at the words repeated in **verses 21, 23, and 26**. In your own words, why should Christians try to be unified?

***To show the world that God sent Jesus out of love***

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- ▶ Below are some ways to be unified. Which ways do you think are possible for Christians?

Examples of Unity	Possible?
Agree about everything	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Love each other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Worship with all other Christians on Earth in the same building	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Know everything about each other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Work together with nearby believers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Serve each other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have the same big goals described by the Bible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

# Building Your Life Castle

- ▶ Read about the problem below and describe how you would work toward love and unity.

One Saturday afternoon, you invite a couple of your friends over to your place. You play outside awhile and grab a snack, and after all that, you decide to show them your newest video game. You give each of them a controller and show them how to play.

Fifteen minutes later, one of your friends starts to act a little nervous. She says that she's not sure if her parents would want her to play a game like this. Your other friend tells her to stop whining. What do you do?

- ◉ I would show love and unity by \_\_\_\_\_

***Answers will vary.***

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# LESSON 2

## The Promised Messiah

### Vocabulary

- **Testament** – A promise or covenant; the name for the two major divisions of books in the Bible
- **Inspiration** – The way God worked through human writers to record Scripture; “God-breathed”
- **Messiah / Christ** – A person chosen for a special role; the promised Savior Jesus
- **Prophecy** – A message of truth from God; often about events in the future
- **Exile** – To drive out someone from their home country; to banish or separate

### 2-A The Fall of Humanity

Jesus, the Light of the world, came to save the world from darkness. Let’s first look at why Jesus was needed, and then we’ll look at how Jesus’ coming was planned from the very beginning.

► Read **Genesis 3:1-6** and fill in the blanks below.

<b>Verse 1</b>	One day, the <b>serpent</b> _____ asked the <b>woman</b> _____ if God really told her not to eat from any <b>tree</b> _____ in the garden.
<b>Verses 2-3</b>	Eve said that she and Adam could eat from the trees, except for one. She said God told them not to eat from it or touch it—or they would <b>die</b> _____.
<b>Verses 4-5</b>	The serpent said that she would not die. It said that the tree would make her like God, so that she would know <b>good and evil</b> _____.
<b>Verse 6</b>	So the woman Eve picked some fruit and ate it. She also gave some to <b>Adam</b> _____, and he ate it, as well.

- ▶ What do you think is the biggest lie that the serpent told Eve?

**Answers will vary. Probably that Eve would not die for eating the fruit**

Eve and Adam sinned when they did what God told them not to do. They had to face the consequences of their actions. God took them out of their home in the garden, and they had to work hard to survive and grow food. The world was no longer friendly, but filled with the results of sin.

Today, all people are naturally drawn to sin. We cannot resist sin by ourselves, and we too will face its penalty without help from God.



## 2-B Looking for the Messiah

There are hundreds of prophecies about the **Messiah** in the Old Testament. These prophecies were written long before Jesus came to Earth, and they tell us many things about Jesus' life. By fulfilling so many prophecies, Jesus showed that He was the Messiah.

- ▶ Read each Old Testament **prophecy**, and then read how it was fulfilled in the New Testament. Fill in the blanks to complete the prophecies.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment	What Happened?
<b>Micah 5:2</b>	<b>Matthew 2:1</b>	Jesus was born in <b>Bethlehem</b> .
<b>Jeremiah 31:15</b>	<b>Matthew 2:16-18</b>	King Herod killed all <b>babies/children</b> under two years old.
<b>Isaiah 61:1</b>	<b>Luke 4:16-21</b>	Jesus came to bring <b>good</b> news, freedom, and healing.
<b>Zechariah 9:9</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-5</b>	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a <b>donkey</b> .



Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment	What Happened?
<b>Isaiah 53:7-9</b>	<b>Matthew 27:12-14</b>	Jesus did not open His <b><i>mouth</i></b> _____ to defend Himself.
<b>Psalms 22:18</b>	<b>John 19:23-24</b>	The soldiers divided Jesus' <b><i>clothing</i></b> _____.
<b>Psalms 34:20</b>	<b>John 19:36</b>	None of Jesus' <b><i>bones</i></b> _____ were broken.
<b>Psalms 16:10</b>	<b>Luke 24:1-7</b>	Jesus did not remain <b><i>dead</i></b> _____, but instead rose again.

## 2-C God Is Faithful

Even though people sin against God and turn away from Him, God works to draw them back to Himself. He knows that without Him, people would suffer in sin. Because He loves us, He made a way back to Him through Jesus.

What about before Jesus came to Earth? How did God get His people's attention and tell them about their need for Him?

- ▶ Look up each reference below and match it to the way that God reached out to the nation of Israel. Write the correct letter in each blank.

<b>B</b>	<b>Judges 2:18</b>	<b>A.</b> God's Law / Teaching <b>B.</b> Judges <b>C.</b> Prophets <b>D.</b> <b>Exile</b> / Captivity
<b>A</b>	<b>Psalms 119:34</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>Jeremiah 29:14</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>Jeremiah 35:15</b>	

Even though the people of Israel endured many difficult things, God preserved their nation. He keeps all His promises.

- ▶ Read **Psalm 33:6-12**. In the table below, match the verses with their key messages.

<b>Verses 6-7</b>	<b>Verse 8-9</b>	<b>Verse 10</b>	<b>Verse 11</b>	<b>Verse 12</b>
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<b>Verse 10</b>	God can mess up the plans of any country or nation.
<b>Verses 8-9</b>	Everyone should respect God because all His words come true.
<b>Verses 6-7</b>	God created the sky and the oceans. His word is powerful.
<b>Verse 12</b>	God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, are blessed.
<b>Verse 11</b>	God's plans will stand forever. No one can change what He decides to do.

## Building Your Life Castle

- ▶ You might not know a prophet or judge, but God still teaches you through many different ways. List the kinds of people and situations you can choose to learn from.

**Answers will vary.**

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- ▶ Why do you think God put so many detailed prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament?

**Answers will vary. To help people recognize Him; to increase our faith in God's promises**

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# LESSON 3

## The Boy Jesus

### Vocabulary

- **Pre-exist** – To exist or live before another
- **Caesar** – The ruler of the Roman Empire, which included the land of Israel in Jesus' time
- **Manger** – A place to put food for animals; a feeding trough
- **Magi** – The wise men who traveled from the East to honor Jesus
- **Passover** – A Jewish holiday celebrating the day Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt
- **Synagogue** – A gathering place for Jews to learn and worship

Jesus is the eternal God of the universe, which means that His birth was very different from ours. His birth was not His beginning. Jesus **pre-existed** His time on Earth. He had always been God, but then He chose to become human, as well. He lived His life on Earth as both God and a man.

### 3-A The Birth of Jesus

- You can find the story of Jesus' birth in **Luke 2:1-7**. Read the passage and complete the following paragraph with the keywords below.

Manger	Bethlehem	Caesar Augustus	Nazareth	Son
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Because of a decree from **Caesar Augustus**, Joseph and Mary had to leave the town of **Nazareth** and travel to **Bethlehem**. They could find no place to stay there, even though Mary was pregnant. So when Mary gave birth to her firstborn **Son**, she wrapped him in some cloths and laid Him in a **manger**.



► Continue reading through **Luke 2:8-20**. Complete the following sentences by checking the correct boxes.

**After Jesus was born, God first decided to share the good news with . . .**

- an important king.       some religious leaders.       a group of shepherds.

**God chose to tell them by sending . . .**

- a large group of angels.       another prophet.       a talking sheep.

**According to verse 14, this moment meant . . .**

- confusion and fear.       glory to God, and peace.       war.

**The shepherds would find the Messiah by . . .**

<b>Looking for</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a baby	<input type="checkbox"/> a very old man	<input type="checkbox"/> a king with a crown
<b>In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> the fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Nazareth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the city of David
<b>Wrapped in</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> fancy robes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cloths	<input type="checkbox"/> hay
<b>Lying in</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> a wooden cradle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a <b>manger</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> a basket

► Describe how the shepherds felt when . . .

- They first saw the angels (v. 9): ***Afraid*** \_\_\_\_\_
- They decided to look for the Messiah (vv. 15-16): ***Answers may vary. Excited*** \_\_\_\_\_
- They returned home (vv. 17, 20): ***Happy; full of gratitude and praise*** \_\_\_\_\_



### 3-B Jesus' Early Life

The Old Testament Law told Jewish parents to dedicate their firstborn sons to the Lord. So shortly after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in the city of Jerusalem (Luke 2:21–38). While there, they met a priest named Simeon who recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon praised God and blessed the young family. Mary and Joseph also met Anna, a prophetess who told many people about the good news of Jesus the Messiah.

- Not everyone was happy to hear about Jesus. Read **Matthew 2:13-23** to learn how Jesus spent the earliest years of His childhood. Then fill in the blanks below.

<b>Verse 13</b>	God sent an angel to tell Joseph to flee with his family to <b><i>Egypt</i></b> _____.
<b>Verses 14-15</b>	Mary, Joseph, and Jesus stayed in that country until after the death of King <b><i>Herod</i></b> _____.
<b>Verse 16</b>	That king tried to kill the Messiah by killing all male children in Bethlehem who were <b><i>two</i></b> _____ years old and under.
<b>Verse 20</b>	An angel later told Joseph when it was safe for the family to move back to <b><i>Israel</i></b> _____.
<b>Verse 23</b>	Jesus grew up in a small town called <b><i>Nazareth</i></b> _____.

When He was 12 years old, Jesus traveled with His parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover**. Afterward, when everyone started the trip home, Jesus was nowhere to be found. His parents searched for Him until they discovered Him still at the Temple.

► Read **Luke 2:41-52** and answer the following questions.

○ What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him? (v. 46) ***Sitting with the teachers, listening, and asking questions***

○ When Mary told Jesus that she and Joseph were looking for Him, how did Jesus reply? (v. 49) ***He said He needed to be in His Father's house / work.***

○ Note **verse 51** again. Did Jesus show disrespect to His parents? ***No.***

○ In what ways did the young Jesus grow up? (v. 52)

***He grew in wisdom, in stature/height, and in favor with God and other people.***



## 3-C Jesus Was Obedient

After Jesus became a human, He faced the same kinds of problems that we do. He knows what makes us happy or sad. He knows what it feels like to be hungry or tired. Jesus felt all these things, but He never responded by sinning. Instead, He set an example for us. He always obeyed God. Because of Jesus' example, we know that we can obey if we ask for His strength.

- Look up the verses below and fill in the blanks to explain how we should follow Jesus' example.

<b>Philippians 2:8</b>	Jesus <b><i>humbled</i></b> _____ Himself and was obedient, even to die on a cross.
<b>James 4:7</b>	We should <b><i>submit</i></b> _____ ourselves to God.
<b>Luke 2:51</b>	Jesus submitted Himself to His parents as He grew up in Nazareth.
<b>Ephesians 6:1-3</b>	We should <b><i>obey / honor</i></b> _____ our parents, as is right to God.
<b>Matthew 22:15-22</b>	Jesus said to give Caesar whatever belongs to <b><i>Caesar</i></b> _____ and to give God whatever belongs to <b><i>God</i></b> _____.
<b>Romans 13:1</b>	We should be subject to <b><i>governing authorities/powers</i></b> _____.



## Building Your Life Castle

- Which authorities in your life do you have the most trouble obeying?

***Answers will vary.***

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Take some time to ask God for strength and wisdom to obey when you should. If Jesus chose to submit Himself to earthly rulers for the good of His ministry, then so can we.