



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

**The Identity
of Jesus
The Christ**

Bible Readings

Psalm 18:46-50

Matthew 1:18 to 2:23

Matthew 16:13-20



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the coming of Jesus in the Bible.
- Express some of the hopes that people had during Jesus' time.
- Integrate some of the Old Testament background into your understanding of Jesus.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What is a Christ anyway?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Have you, or anyone else in the group ever met a celebrity?

In what ways were they just like you had expected?

In what ways were they different?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Matthew 2:1-12

In the ancient world, a common part of the coronation ceremony for kings and priests involved pouring oil on their heads (“anointing them”).

In the Old Testament, God had promised a Jewish king named David that his royal line would rule forever (2 Sam 7:16). However, several hundred years later the kingdom was invaded and it seemed like David’s line was destined to fade into obscurity.

By the time Jesus was born, David’s land was a small province in the massive Roman Empire. The Romans had appointed a foreigner named Herod to rule as king on their behalf.

Yet even while it seemed that the kingdom of the Jews had fallen apart, the prophets who wrote at the end of the Old Testament had not forgotten God’s promises to David. They looked forward to a day when a good, strong and powerful king in David’s line would return. He would bring justice and honour back to God’s people and bring peace to the world.

They called him “Messiah,” which in the Hebrew language meant “the anointed one.” In the Greek language, the word is “Christ.”

Explore – Express

Imagine you are a team from a current affairs programme investigating the mystery of Jesus’ identity and the government corruption which followed his birth.

Make a 3 minute video (or a play if you don’t have access to a video camera) which includes interviews with Mary, Herod, and the wise men.

Remember you only have 20 mins, so keep it simple!

Explore – Integrate

- In what ways do you think that the Old Testament might help us to understand Jesus?
- The wise men had perhaps expected to find the new-born king of the Jews in a palace in the capital city, rather than a house in a little village. In what ways have YOU been surprised by things you have learned about Jesus?
- Herod felt threatened by the news of Jesus. In what ways can people feel threatened by the message about Jesus today?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Finish with this prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you that you have a plan for this world.

Thank you that you sent Jesus to make that plan come true.

Please help us to figure out who he is, and what he means for us.

Please help us to accept what we find to be true about him.

Amen.