

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 23: The Son of Man (from Luke 21:5-38)

To the Teacher:

This week we'll go all the way back in the Old Testament to Daniel 7 to help explain something Jesus was saying in Luke 21. Remember, the Bible is all one cohesive story... and it points to King Jesus!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus is the Rescuing King, better than all others!
- **Question:** Have you ever had a dream you wished would come true? Or one you hoped would not come true?

- **Story:** from Luke 21:5-38 & Daniel 7

[READ]

A long time ago, before Jesus came down to earth, God used to speak to His people through what were called 'prophets'. Prophets were men and women who God would tell something to so they can tell the rest of the people.

Once there was this man named Daniel, and God showed him things through dreams. Daniel had this scary dream one time about beasts ruling over and devouring everything. A messenger of God told Daniel what the dream meant; the beasts represented human kingdoms and rulers who destroyed God's good world by trying to make themselves powerful, rather than God.

You see, humans were always meant to rule *with* God, but when humans try to rule *instead* of God, they become less than human and cause all kinds of problems for God's creation. Fortunately, Daniel's dream didn't end there. After seeing the beasts, he also saw 'one like a son of man', which just means, a human. This human was different than other humans... better. He was given power, glory, and made King over the kingdom of all creation. The other kingdoms destroyed things, but this kingdom could never be destroyed and would rule forever. It would be a good kingdom that would heal and bring life!

This dream God gave Daniel was written down and told to God's people for many generations. It gave them hope that one day this 'son of man' would come and establish God's good kingdom on earth.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born and started telling people about God's kingdom. One time, when he was grown and it was almost time for him to be killed, he started telling people near the temple about things from Daniel's dream that were going to come true!

He told them about how man's kingdoms were causing wars and rebellions, and nations fighting against nations. He told them that the whole earth was groaning in wait for the true kingdom, causing things like earthquakes, plagues, and famines. He told his followers that people would treat them horribly for following Jesus, but not to give up hope. Endure and one day they will see signs from heaven; the skies will open up and the Son of Man would come down from the clouds with power and glory!

Jesus is the Son of Man from Daniel's dream! He is the one who will rescue us from other kingdoms and bring us into God's true Kingdom. He is the true human who will partner with and rule alongside God the way it was meant to be... and all who follow him will get to rule with him! So, Jesus said to be on guard, to watch for him, and to pray that we would be faithful to him as our true King until he returns.

[Reflection Questions]

- What does 'son of man' mean?
- Why do you think Jesus liked to call himself Son of Man?
- Why do you think God showed Daniel that dream hundreds of years before Jesus came?

• **Prayer:**

God, we mess things up when we try to do it without You. Thank You for not leaving us alone; You've sent Jesus to rule as King! Spirit, help us live like Jesus until he returns. Amen!

• **Craft:**

- Have kids stretch cotton balls & glue them onto paper to make clouds
- Or use coloring page attached

• **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Listen: God spoke to people through prophets in the Old Testament, but when Jesus came he gave the gift of his Spirit so now all who follow him can hear from God! Listen this week for what God might be saying to you.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a
cloud with power and great glory.
Luke 21:27

