

## Is faith different between the Old and New Testaments?

### 1. What do you observe about Jesus and His name?

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (John 1:18, NIV)

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). (Matt 1:21-23, NIV)

### 2. What do you observe about Jesus the Messiah?

19) Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21) For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22) Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23) that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. 24) “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:19-24, NIV)

48) There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. 49) For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. 50) I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” (John 12:48-50, NIV)

3. As the apostle Peter speaks to Believers (1 Pet 2:9-10), he makes a reference to an event when God speaks, through Moses, to the nation of Israel just before revealing the Mosaic Covenant (Ex 19:3-6). How does Peter define who are God's chosen people? How would you define faith in the context of the New Testament?

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:9-10, NIV)

Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Ex 19:3-6, NIV)

4. Observe carefully what the apostle Paul instructs Timothy. What do you make of, "make you wise for salvation?"

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:14-17, NIV)

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### Teacher Notes

#### 1. What do you observe about Jesus and His name?

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Ask the student: what do you learn about the physical appearance of Jesus and His name?

Jesus' physical appearance is the image of the invisible God in heaven.

Jesus' name, Immanuel, means “God with us,” and the Hebrew name behind “Jesus”, Yēšua', means “God is salvation.”

#### 2. What do you observe about Jesus the Messiah?

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Encourage the student to circle or underline the phrases to aid their observation and comprehension of the text.

Ask the student: what can Jesus do and say?

Jesus can only do what He sees His Father doing and say only what His Father commands Him to say!

Who does Jesus say to have faith in? Whose words lead to eternal life?

Observe John 5:23 - “whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.”

Observe John 12:50 - “I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

3. As the apostle Peter speaks to Believers (1 Pet 2:9-10), he makes a reference to an event when God speaks, through Moses, to the nation of Israel just before revealing the Mosaic Covenant (Ex 19:3-6). How does Peter define who are God's chosen people? How would you define faith in the context of the New Testament?

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Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Ex 19:3-6, NIV)

Inform the student: Exodus 19:3-6 is where God defines what faith means. It may help to write this on a white board. To be God's own treasured possession out of all the nations, His kingdom of priests, and holy nation, you must do two things:

1. **Believe the historical and real existence of God** based on His statement, "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."
2. **Place a trust in God, like Abraham, that engenders an obedience to His word** based on His statement, "obey me fully and keep my covenant."

Ask the student: does this definition work in the New Testament? How? Provide ample time for discussion so that the student can think about his observations of the text.

1. **Believe the historical and real existence of God**, because the historical Jesus Christ is the image of God in form, name, and act.
2. **Place a trust in God, like Abraham, that engenders an obedience to His word**, because God's word saves and leads to eternal life.

4. Observe carefully what the apostle Paul instructs Timothy. What do you make of, "make you wise for salvation?"

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:14-17, NIV)

Ask the student: what do you observe about Paul's advice about Bible study?