BOTTOM LINE:
Jesus is the promised Messiah.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will state that Jesus is the fulfillment of a promise that God gave in the Old Testament.

KEY PASSAGE:
Mark 1:1-11, The Arrival of Jesus

MEMORY VERSE:
“Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven’s glory.” Colossians 3:4 (NIrV)

SUMMARY:
Jesus came from the Father to show us His love. Kids will learn that Jesus is God’s son and we can trust him completely.

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for delivering what you promised in Jesus.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen
MEMORY VERSE

“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”
Colossians 3:4 (NIV)

“Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven’s glory.” Colossians 3:4 (NIrV)

LARGE GROUP:
Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:
Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.
SKIT

THE MAN IN THE HAIRY PAJAMAS

ITEMS NEEDED:
A suit and microphone for Jimmy
A hairy costume for John
A bag of snacks

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:
2M

CHARACTERS:
Jimmy - A reporter
John the Baptist

*Jimmy is on stage.*

JIMMY: Hello Bible fans, this is the world’s number one Bible fan, Jimmy James Jameson, reporter in time! I am standing several thousand years in the past out in the wilderness, where I have just witnessed something truly amazing. Many hundreds of years before this moment in time, God promised to send a Savior. Now that Savior is here! He was just down in the waters, and the man approaching me was in the water with him.

*John enters, carrying the bag.*

JIMMY: Excuse me, sir! Are you who I think you are?

JOHN: You are not looking for me.

JIMMY: I’m not?

JOHN: The one you seek just left here. He took that road.

JIMMY: Oh, no no no, I’m not looking for Jesus.

JOHN: But you should be!

JIMMY: I’m here to see John the Baptist.
JOHN: And you have found him, and he is telling you, friend, you are looking for the wrong man.

JIMMY: I think we’re talking in circles here.

JOHN: *(offers Jimmy the bag)* Locust?

JIMMY: Eeww, no!

JOHN: They're really good and crunchy.

JIMMY: John the Baptist… do I call you John, or Mr. The Baptist?

JOHN: Call me the one who comes before the One, the One whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

JIMMY: So that was Jesus in the water with you just now?

JOHN: That was he. He came to me to be baptized. I told him I was the one who needed to be baptized by Him, but He said it was to fulfill the prophecies.

JIMMY: Because Jesus is the one God promised would come in the Old Testament.

JOHN: I do not know this Old Testament of which you speak, but I do know this. Jesus is the Messiah. God sent me to prepare the way for him, and now that He is here, He must become greater, and I must become less.

JIMMY: Now I understand why you said you’re not the man I am looking for.

JOHN: I am glad you sought me. Now seek Him!

JIMMY: I will, I will!

JOHN: God is good. He fulfills His promises, and Jesus will save His people!

JIMMY: And with that word, we will end this interview. My thanks to you, John the Baptist, for pointing the way to Jesus.

JOHN: You sure you don’t want to try a locust?

JIMMY: This is Jimmy James Jameson, reporter in time. I’ll be back next week with more on the amazing story of Jesus!
ITEMS NEEDED:
A direct-to-video movie sequel

Have you ever noticed that movie sequels are usually not very good? A film studio like Disney will create a movie, it will become a big hit, and they will quickly rush out a second movie with the same characters. More often than not, the sequel is a big disappointment. Sometimes you get Toy Story 2 or The Empire Strikes Back. More often than not, you get Mulan II, or Cinderella II, or Belle’s Enchanted Christmas.

The New Testament came after the Old Testament, but it is no disappointment. In fact all the promises made in the Old Testament are kept in the New Testament. God sends a Savior. The Savior dies for our sins. He rises from the grave. He sent his Holy Spirit. He creates a new covenant and a new church. He also gives us a new promise: He is preparing a place for us to live forever with Him in Heaven!

Jesus is the promised Messiah. He is the Son of God and our Savior. The New Testament is the story of how He fulfilled all God’s promises. That’s a sequel that not only stands on its own, it makes the original story even greater.
THE HARDEST SEQUEL QUIZ EVER

ITEMS NEEDED:
None

INSTRUCTIONS:
Choose one player for this game. In this game the player will be given the names of five movie sequels. If they can name the original movie from all five of the movies listed, they win a prize.

The trick is, these are all super easy. The five movies in the quiz are:

- Toy Story 2
- Spider-Man 2
- Shrek II
- Back to the Future II
- Cars 2

VARIATION:
Instead of quizzing just one kid, you can break the questions up and let five kids win a prize.

WHAT’S THE POINT?
The New Testament is the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Old Testament.
LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:
Jesus is the promised Messiah.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will state that Jesus is the fulfillment of a promise that God gave in the Old Testament.

KEY PASSAGE:
Mark 1:1-11, The Arrival of Jesus

INTRO:
Does anyone know what a cliffhanger is? A cliffhanger is the ending of a story that’s not really an ending. It’s when a movie or a book ends with major questions to be answered. Sometimes the hero is in danger, and we’re left never knowing if they survived. Sometimes the villain has won the day, and we are left wondering if the heroes can come back and defeat them. It’s an ending that leaves us wanting more. It’s an ending that needs a sequel.

The Bible is one big book made up of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story of how the world began. It tells the story of a Creator God who made the world and made people. It tells how those people fell into sin and were separated from God. It tells us that God loved his people so much, he refused to quit on them. He made a plan to save them. He chose a people he would use to save the whole world. He made a promise that he would send them a hero.

The Old Testament ends with a promise made but not yet fulfilled. The New Testament begins with God fulfilling that promise. In Isaiah 9, God told us he was sending us a hero, a Messiah.

READ ISAIAH 9:6-7

The first four books of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - tell us the story of that Messiah. His name is Jesus. He is the Son of God. He was born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem, just as God’s prophets said he would. God sent a messenger named John the Baptist to prepare the way for his arrival, and when the time was right, Jesus made himself known to God’s people.
READ MARK 1:1-11

MAIN POINT:
John the Baptist was a man who drew a lot of attention. He lived in the wilderness. He wore animal skins. He ate bugs for breakfast. And lunch. And dinner. He preached with authority and told the people that the time had come for God to fulfill the promise of what we now call the Old Testament. Many people thought John was the Messiah, but he let them know that he had only come to announce the arrival of the Messiah.

Jesus is the one the people had been waiting for. He is the Messiah that Isaiah and so many others had prophesied would come. Jesus came to save us from our greatest enemy: our sins. Jesus had come not to save Israel but the whole world! Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. His story teaches us that we can trust him, and he will give us new life.

DRIVE IT HOME:
Jesus was not the Messiah many people expected. They were looking for a warrior, a king who would take the throne of his ancestor David. They wanted someone to drive the Romans and all the enemies of Israel out of their land.

God had other plans. He had his eyes set on a much more dangerous enemy, the one that had separated God from his creation at the beginning of time. Jesus came to teach the people how to love God and love each other. He performed many miracles, from turning water into wine at a wedding, to giving sight to the blind, to restoring health to people suffering from disease, to raising the dead. These were all signs of Jesus’ power and authority, but they were not the reason he came. He came to die for our sins.

John 3:16 sums up the purpose of Jesus’ mission on Earth:

READ JOHN 3:16

God loved us so much, he sent his son to take the punishment of sin upon himself. Even though he never sinned, he let himself be crucified on a cross so that when he rose from the grave, he could forgive our sins.

The New Testament is the story of how God fulfilled his promise to save us. It’s the story of Jesus. It’s the story of his church. It’s the story of how God’s incredible love can save us from our sins.

Jesus is the Messiah. He came to show us how much God loves us. We can trust Jesus because he is the Son of God!
CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

_Dear God,_

Thank you for delivering what you promised in Jesus.

_In Jesus’ name,_

_Amen_
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:
What is your favorite movie sequel?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Colossians 3:4
Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Go around the group, and ask each kid to name a movie, a song, a TV show, or a cartoon they love. Have them stand when they give their answer, and when they answer, tell the kids that if they like that same thing, they should go and stand with the other student. See if the kids can find something in common with someone they didn’t know before today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Mark 1:1-11

Who was John the Baptist?

What was John the Baptist’s mission?

Whom did John baptize?

Who is Jesus?

What Old Testament promise did Jesus fulfill?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for sending us Jesus.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:
What is your favorite movie sequel?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Colossians 3:4
Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Go around the group, and ask each kid to name a movie, a song, a TV show, or a cartoon that they love. Have them stand when they give their answer, and when they answer, tell the kids that if they like that same thing, they should go and stand with the other student. See if the kids can find something in common with someone they didn’t know before today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Mark 1:1-11

What promise did God make but not fulfill in the Old Testament?

How did God fulfill that promise in the New Testament?

Who is Jesus?

How did Jesus save us from sins?

How do we know we can trust Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for sending us Jesus.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen
OLD OR NEW

Is this in the Old Testament or the New Testament?

God creates the world.
OLD

Jesus is born.
NEW

God promises a Messiah.
OLD

God sends the Holy Spirit to live in those who believe in Jesus.
NEW

David kills a giant.
OLD

Jesus dies for our sins.
NEW
5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

New Testament Lesson 1

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: JESUS CAME

IN THE CAR:
Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
The New Testament is the story of how God fulfilled his promise to save us. The story begins when Jesus came from the Father to show us His love. Jesus is God’s son and we can trust him completely. Mark 1:1-11, The Arrival of Jesus

HANGING OUT:
Make this week’s lesson real:
What’s the best movie sequel you ever saw? What’s the worst? Tell the kids about your favorite and least favorite movie sequels. Then ask them how the New Testament is a sequel to the Old.

AT DINNER:
Here are some great discussion starters:
- What promise did God fulfill when he sent us Jesus?
- What was Jesus’ mission on Earth?
- How do we know we can trust Jesus with our lives?

AT BEDTIME:
Quiz your child on this week’s memory verse:
“Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven’s glory.” Colossians 3:4 (NIrV)

PARENT TIME:
What you need to know:
The New Testament does not do away with the Old Testament. It is the continuation of the same story. God fulfills the promises of the Old Testament when he sends Jesus to save us from sin.
“Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven’s glory.”

- Colossians 3:4 (NIrV)
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a “sequel” themed movie poster for the story of the New Testament. Or have them draw and create an advertisement saying that Jesus has come to save us from sin.