

Yahweh

Lesson 1, Master Teacher Outline

JESUS, THE FULFILLMENT

(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Print a copy of the Bible Study Worksheet for each learner. Encourage learners to take notes on their worksheets as you teach.

Introduction: A 3-D holographic picture has an image behind the visible picture. Some people can see the picture behind the picture and some cannot. Likewise, Jesus is the main picture throughout the entire Bible. Some people can see Him in both the Old and New Testaments while others cannot.

1. Jesus teaches us truth about the Old Testament's purpose (Matt. 5:17-18).

- Although Jesus was accused by the Pharisees of trying to abolish the Law (the first five chapters of our Bible) and the Prophets (the rest of the Old Testament), He explained that He was the one who fulfilled (completed) the scripture (v. 17).
- Jesus underscored the importance of the entire scripture by using two visual illustrations: the smallest, most unimportant letter of the scripture and the smallest mark (such as dotting an "i" in English) would not be changed until the end of times (v. 18).

Illustration: As a college football coach, Lou Holtz spent years teaching young men the intricacies of the game. But Holtz is also remembered for instilling life lessons to the men he coached. Holtz was as famous for his life teachings and he was for his work as a coach. Likewise, the principles taught through the Law still provide life lessons for those who study them.

How have the teachings you learned earlier in life helped you as you age?

2. Jesus teaches us that God evaluates a person's response to Scripture as either righteous or unrighteous (Matt. 5:19-20).

- Jesus informed the Pharisees that *anyone* who did not follow the Law, or who taught others to be disobedient to the Law, would be considered the least in the Kingdom of heaven; while those who were obedient to the Law and led others to be would be considered the greatest in the Kingdom (v. 19).
- Although the Pharisees believed their righteousness, which came from keeping the Law, was superior to all others, Jesus emphasized that true righteousness was far greater than what the Pharisees could accomplish on their own (v. 20).
- **Jesus is God and Savior** and came to fulfill the Scripture and to show what true righteousness is.

Illustration: Over the years, artificial Christmas trees have become more and more life-like. Once the ornaments have been hung, it can be necessary to touch the tree to tell if it's real or artificial. The Pharisees had become artificial, hanging plastic ornaments of "righteousness" on lives that were unchanged within. Jesus taught how to replace plastic lives with His righteousness, a righteousness that changes us from the inside out.

Conclusion: God never intended for us to achieve righteousness through adherence to the Law. Rather, God planned for Jesus to achieve righteousness for us. Through His life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus fulfilled the Law and brought us into His righteousness.