John 7:1-31
Jesus: Special Care Package

Scripture: John 7:1-31

Memory Verse: John 7:29 *"I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."*

Lesson Focus: We will emphasize what Jesus Himself emphasizes many times in this section of Scripture: that He is SENT by God. These are amazing claims and we will look at the reaction of various groups of people to these claims. To wrap up, we will point out how Jesus SENDS His followers out as well.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Mail Man, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Origami Gift Bag

Starter Activity: What Do You Send?

To get the kids familiar with the idea of Jesus being "sent", first ask the kids what are some things that they send. Some answers you might suggest:

- A football (bring one in and throw it to a kid)
- Thank you letters or text messages
- Care packages (like Operation Christmas Child shoebox)

Q: How many of you have ever helped an adult package something to be shipped in the mail? You box it, put an address on it, also some stamps, and then send it.

Did you know that you can actually send objects directly without a box? You just put the address and postage on it directly and that's it! Consider these objects and messages (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some of these objects in!) *

1) A potato: Message to Minecrafter: "Go outside and play you couch potato!"
2) A rolling pin: Message to grandma, "Let's bake something sweet together!"
3) Piece of wood: Message to friend, "'Wood' you like to come over and play?" *

Imagine getting or sending some of these objects directly in the mail without any boxes!! It is fun to send things to people, isn't it? In each of these cases, the sender is sending something special to someone that they love or care about.

In our study today, Jesus repeatedly claims that He has been SENT by God the Father. Jesus is like a "special care package" from the Father to us! Let's open our Bibles and go deeper!

Bible Study:

Anytime something is sent, those to whom it is sent will react in different ways. In our text, we are going to see different groups of people with different reactions to Jesus.

John 7:1-5: The first group is Jesus's own family.
Q: How were His own half-brothers reacting to Him? Not with belief, but with half-hearted ridicule!

If any of you have siblings, I think you can almost understand their perspective. Can you imagine growing up with a brother that does everything **perfectly**? They were perhaps sick and tired of hearing, "*Jesus did this, Jesus did that, why can't you be more like your brother Jesus!*"

If you kids are growing up in a Christian home where you constantly hear about Jesus, be careful that you don't become so "used to" Jesus that you start to get sick and tired of hearing about Him! *

John 7:6-9: His brothers will not believe in Him until after His death and resurrection which was appointed for a later time. * Jesus is not on their timetable, but on the Father's Who sent Him to be the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sins. *

John 7:10-13: Jesus had been stirring things up with His miracles and claims about being sent by God that we now get to see how this other group, the Jewish crowds, were reacting to Him.

Q: How would you describe their reaction? They were certainly in great anticipation * wondering what He was going to do or say next! But their reactions were also mixed: "*Is He good? Is He a liar?*" They weren't sure what to make of Him. One thing that is good about this is that there is **interest** in Jesus! While they might not correctly understand who Jesus is, they are at least curious and talking about Him!

Q: Are YOU even interested in Jesus? Once you truly begin to see Who Jesus is, the God-man sent for you, you cannot help but wonder at Him and talk about Him. * If we rightly understand Who Jesus is, He will NEVER be boring!

John 7:14-16: BOOM! Jesus makes His appearance on His timing! And the people marvel, because He teaches with authority and yet has no formal training!

Imagine a boy having never played baseball, stepping up to the plate for the first time and hitting a home run. Or imagine a girl showing up to her first piano lesson able to play Canon in D perfectly. You would wonder, "*Where did they learn how to do that?*"

Q: Look at v. 16. How does Jesus respond? He says His teaching is from the Father Who SENT Him! There it is once again: Jesus is from the Father and SENT by the Father. His words are the very words of God!

John 7:17-24: Jesus is referring back to the paralyzed man he healed which ignited all the fuss. He healed that man on the Sabbath which they considered a "work" that was forbidden to do on the Sabbath day (it wasn't). Yet Jesus points out that they do similar "works" on the Sabbath as well and therefore busting them as hypocrites.

Q: What does it mean to be a hypocrite?
A: To say one thing but then do the opposite; to pretend to be what you aren't.

Examples: (**Teachers:** consider acting these out, or come up with your own)

- To say I care about the environment while littering
- To say I love my brother or sister while beating them up
- To blurt out "sorry" to avoid getting in trouble, but then to do that thing again
- To lecture someone to put their screen away while being on your screen *

In the same way, the Jews had been lecturing Jesus about keeping the law (which says do not murder) yet they want to murder Jesus!

We all have moments of weakness when we can be hypocrites. Instead of reacting with anger or making excuses when you get busted, remember Jesus was SENT for you! Admit your sin, turn away from your hypocritical pretending, and turn to Him!

John 7:25-27: The crowds are amazed that Jesus hasn't been arrested yet still puzzled over what to do about Him. It also seems they were expecting a different "Messianic package" from God. Perhaps they thought Jesus's humble upbringing disqualified Him from being the Messiah. *

John 7:28-30: Jesus CRIES OUT these words!

Just imagine yourself among the people quietly chatting about who this Jesus thinks He is and then he addresses exactly what you are talking about as if He is talking directly to you! *

Jesus, again, makes it very clear that He is the God-man! He was raised as a boy by Joseph and Mary, yes, but He had always existed as God! He grew up as a humble carpenter in Nazareth, yes, but as God He was appointed and SENT by the Father to be the Savior of the world! * And the time of His death and resurrection was still to come.

John 7:31: We see one more reaction here.
Q: How did this group of people react to Jesus being SENT? They believed in Him! Bingo!

Key Point: How do you react to Jesus being SENT from God to you?

Q: Are you too "used to" Jesus that He doesn't excite you anymore?
Q: Are you maybe not interested in Jesus because you are looking for other "packages"?
Q: OR, is your heart gripped by the fact that God would send His Son for you? That's belief! That's worship! That's faith! That's pleasing to God!

My job as your teacher of the gospel is to do whatever I can to get you excited about Jesus! He is the greatest "package" you could ever receive!

Read John 20:21: After Jesus rose from the dead He told His disciples that, *"as the Father SENT Me, so I SEND you!"*

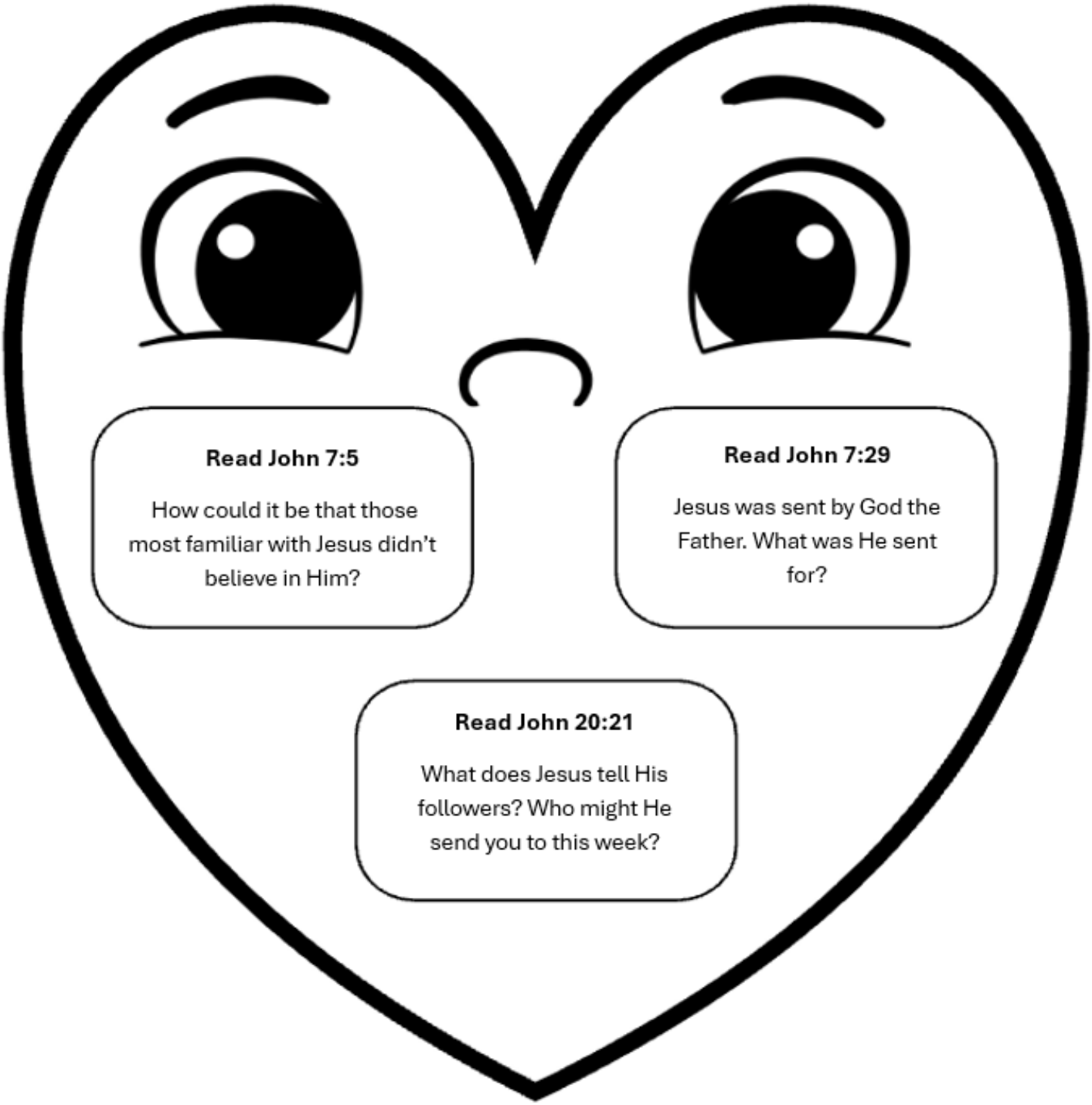
Jesus Who was God's special care package to the world, then sends those who believe and receive Him to tell others about His special care package. In a certain sense, believers are like the mailman delivering God's special care package to others! *

If your heart has been captured by Jesus, you can't help but tell others! You can't help but invite others to church. You can't help but show kindness to others. (**See 1 John 4:11**)

Go and tell others about Jesus, God's special care package that was sent especially for them!

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



Read John 7:5

How could it be that those most familiar with Jesus didn't believe in Him?

Read John 7:29

Jesus was sent by God the Father. What was He sent for?

Read John 20:21

What does Jesus tell His followers? Who might He send you to this week?

that we should be called children of God!

1 JOHN 3:1