

Lesson 13 / August 30, 2009

# The Real Deal!

for use as

## STEP 1

### Lesson 13 Focus:

The Bible points to Jesus as our Savior.

### Lesson 13 Bible Basis:

Isaiah 61:1–2; Luke 4:16–20; Acts 13:23, 26, 29–30, 38–39

**Students will discover how they can know for sure that Jesus is the true Messiah.**




#### Supplies needed:

- A device with Internet access like a computer or smartphone (optional)
- a table
- light-colored paper table covering
- a two-liter bottle of each of the following sodas: Coca Cola, Pepsi, and any generic cola
- small cups
- construction paper
- scissors
- tape
- marker
- slips of copy paper
- pens

**B**efore class, set up a taste testing center featuring three bottles of cola – Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, and a generic cola. Cut construction paper to fit around the bottles to cover the labels. Secure the papers with tape and use a marker to designate product numbers 1, 2, and 3. On the paper tablecloth write, “Can you tell which cola is ‘The Real Thing?’ Guess which bottle contains Coca Cola!”

As your students arrive, invite them to participate in the experiment. Ask, **Can you tell which is the real thing?** Provide slips of paper and pencils so that kids can write down and remember their guess.

Gather everyone for the big reveal. Stand behind each sample, one at a time, and ask, **How many of you think THIS is the real thing?** Remove the labels on both imposter bottles before revealing the Coca Cola. Then ask the following discussion questions:

-  **How did you decide which bottle to choose?**
-  **Did anyone say or do anything that influenced your decision? Explain.**
-  **Did you make a choice and then change your mind? How often do you make a decision and then say or do something different?**

Lesson 13  
**Memory Verse**

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.  
— Romans 10:17

Did you know that the Coca Cola Company once used “It’s the real thing” as the marketing slogan for their product? If you have Internet access into your classroom, show the ad video using the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVag7D85b24>.

Coca Cola was the first drink of its kind in the soda market. So when Pepsi created a similar drink, the two companies began what they called “cola wars.” They set up displays all over the country and challenged people to tell the difference between the two colas. In recent years, many soda companies have come out with their version of a drink that most people simply call “coke.”

- ▶ **When you go shopping for clothes, do you prefer designer labels? Or do you settle for similar styles that are made by lesser known companies? What influences our decisions?** (*peer pressure, family finances, buying what appeals to the individual*)
- ▶ **If you had \$200 to spend in an electronics store** (*video games, mp3 players, cell phones, etc.*), **would you look for well-known brands? Or would you consider buying a less expensive version of the same item? Why?** (*Mention the fact that saving money is a good thing, but other deciding factors are important as well, like product quality and service guarantees*)
- ▶ **How can we know if a company will back up the guarantees it makes about a product?** (*solid reputation for keeping promises*)

Every day you and I must make choices. We make decisions based on what we know about the world we’ve grown up in – what we’ve learned from adults, what we’ve experienced from being with friends and dealing with enemies, and what we believe about the stuff that is fed into our brains when we watch TV and listen to music.

The most important decision any of us will ever make has to do with the promise of eternal life. Everyone needs a Savior. But how can we tell the difference between the real deal and the imposters?

Let’s look into God’s Word for the answer.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher’s Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)

YouTube Source:

“Coke Always the Real Thing”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVag7D85b24>

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# The Real Deal!

for use as

**STEP 4** 
**Lesson 13**  
**Focus:**

The Bible points to Jesus as our Savior.

**Lesson 13**  
**Bible Basis:**

Isaiah 61:1–2; Luke 4:16–20; Acts 13:23, 26, 29–30, 38–39

**Supplies needed:**

- a large, clear container
- enough white rice (uncooked) to fill the container
- one grain of rice tinted purple
- copies of The Messiah Checklist on the last page (one for each student)
- pens

**A**s your students watch, fill a large container with white rice. Ask, **▶ How many grains of rice do you think are in this container?**

Encourage discussion. Let's say that this white rice represents all the people in the world from when man was created until far into the future.

Show one grain of rice that you have tinted with a purple marker and say, Thousands of years ago, God promised that He would send ONE man who could fulfill every detail that was predicted about the coming of a Savior. This grain of purple rice symbolizes that one man – the true Messiah.

God knew that many imposters throughout history would pretend to be His chosen Messiah. He wanted everybody to be able to tell when someone was lying to them. So He spoke through His prophets and created a kind of checklist to help us out.

Pass out pens and copies of the Messiah Checklist (on the last page). Ask for volunteers to read each statement, and have your students draw a check mark by the choice that fulfills that prophecy.

God's prophets gave hundreds of clues to help people identify the true Messiah, and Jesus fulfilled them all!

Stir the white rice with your hand and say, When Jesus was a child and then a teenager and then a young adult, He blended in with all the other people. Everyone thought He was just a carpenter who lived in a city called Nazareth.

Lesson 13  
**Memory Verse**

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When He was thirty years old, He asked His cousin John to baptize Him in the Jordan River. Hold up the purple grain of rice once again and say, When Jesus came up out of the water, many witnesses heard the voice of God saying, “This is My Son.” And people suddenly recognized that there was something remarkable about this very ordinary-looking man.

Explain that when a person feels genuinely sorry for their sin and accepts Jesus as their Savior, the Spirit of God will come in and change them from the inside out. And as we learn more about Jesus and trust Him to help us obey His teachings, people will recognize that something remarkable is happening – we’re becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ!

Close with prayer. Encourage middle-schoolers to take their checklists with them to share with family and friends.

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website listed on these pages.)

# The Messiah Check List

## God's prophets gave clues that would help us identify our Savior.

God's prophet said that our Savior would be born in Bethlehem, a town in Israel. (Mic. 5:2)

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (Mt. 2:1-2)
- Messiah imposters were NOT.

God's prophet said that our Savior would be filled with God's spirit. (Isa. 61:1)

- Jesus is the Son of God. (Mt. 3:16)
- Messiah imposters are NOT.

God's prophet said that our Savior would ride a donkey's colt into Jerusalem. (Zec. 9:9)

- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt as people cheered. (Mt. 21:1-11)
- Messiah imposters . . . NOT.

God's prophet said that our Savior would be crucified. (Ps. 22:16)

- Jesus was nailed to a cross. (Mt. 27:35)
- Messiah imposters . . . NOT.

God's prophet said that our Savior's side would be pierced. (Isa. 53:5)

- Jesus' side was pierced by a soldier's spear. (Jn. 19:34)
- Messiah imposters . . . NOT.

God's prophet said that our Savior's body would be laid in a rich man's tomb. (Isa. 53:9)

- Jesus' body was laid in the tomb of a rich man named Joseph. (Mt. 27:57-60)
- Messiah imposters . . . NOT.

Jesus said, before He was crucified, that He would rise from the dead. (Mt. 16:21)

- Jesus came back to life after He had been dead for three days! (Mk. 16:2-7)
- Messiah imposters . . . NOT.

## Spread the word that Jesus was sent by God to be our Savior!

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

— Romans 10:17