

**3RD-6TH GRADE**

**I AM 3RD**



***Basketball***



**CENTENARY**  
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**Memory Verse for the 3rd-6th grade: Luke 9:18-20**

**“Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; Others say Elijah; And still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.’ ‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘God’s Messiah.’”**

## **Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?**

I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our hearts, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



## Week 2: Once when Jesus was praying in private

This basketball season, we will be spending our devotional time memorizing Luke 9:18-20. This is a very important passage for us to remember because it tells us the story of how Jesus, the Son of the Living God, came down to earth for you.. The first part we will memorize together is “Once when Jesus was praying in private...” Did you know that even Jesus took time to pray? He spent lots of time getting to know people and sharing experiences with them, but He was also very intentional to find times when He could get away and just spend time in prayer.

- What does it mean to take time to pray?
- Do you take time to pray?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private...”

## Week 3: And His disciples were with Him

Last week, we talked about how even Jesus took time to pray. Today we are continuing the story with the phrase “...and his disciples were with Him.” When Jesus started his ministry, He went and picked 12 people and asked them to do life with Him. They went where He went, slept where He slept, and ate what He ate. They watched Jesus talk to people. They talked to Him and asked Him questions all the time. Disciples were a normal part of their culture - all of the religious leaders would have had disciples (but a lot less of them than Jesus had). The goal of a disciple would be to take the job/position of the person they were following when the time was right. The disciples were all learning to be like Jesus, so that they would be prepared when He wasn't with them anymore. Now Jesus was God, and He was perfect. None of the disciples would ever actually be able to take Jesus' place (and the disciples knew this), but what they could do is get to know Him as much as possible. This way, when the time came, they would be prepared to tell people all about who Jesus is and why He matters so much to them, and to all of us today.

-Did you know that Jesus had disciples?

-What would it look like for us to follow God like the disciples followed Jesus?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him...”





## Week 4: He asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

Last week, we talked about how Jesus had disciples who spent all their time learning from Him and asking him questions. Today we are continuing the story with words from Jesus “He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’” Jesus asks this question to the disciples. The disciples would have been the people who knew Jesus the best, but they were also normal people like me and you! People would have talked to them when they visited different towns. The disciples would have heard people talking about Jesus. Jesus cared about people (and still does!), and He wanted to know what people were saying about Him! God cares about what you think and say He is too!

- Who would you say Jesus is?

- What does your relationship with Jesus look like? Do you have one?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’”

## Week 5: They replied, “Some say John the Baptist;

Last week, we talked about how Jesus asked the disciples who other people thought He was. Today we are continuing the story with the beginning of the disciples' response “They replied, “Some say John the Baptist...” Now this seems kind of silly to us! Jesus can't be John the Baptist, because Jesus' name is Jesus! Not John! But this answer did not seem nearly as weird to the disciples, or to Jesus himself. It wasn't the right answer, but they could understand how people could have made the mistake. John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. John spent much of His time telling people that the Messiah was coming (Jesus). John actually baptized Jesus, but soon after that John was taken to prison and killed. After this, people just got confused.

- Have you ever thought the Bible is confusing? Have there ever been things that you read that you didn't quite understand?
- What are some things that you can do to help understand the Bible better? Do you have people you can go to if you have questions about God?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist...’”



## Week 6: Others say Elijah

Last week, we talked about how some people thought Jesus was really just John the Baptist. Today we are continuing the story with more of the disciples' response "...others say Elijah..." Again, this seems kind of silly to us. Especially since Elijah lived a long time before Jesus was even born! But just like last time, it made a little bit of sense that people would make the mistake.

Elijah was a prophet. A very well known prophet, who was mentioned multiple times in the Bible - even after his life was over. Elijah was talked about as someone who would 'come before' the Messiah (Jesus) and would help prepare the way for Him. When people said that Jesus was Elijah, part of what they were saying was that they thought Jesus was just preparing for the Messiah. In reality, Jesus (the Messiah, the Savior) was standing right in front of them and they didn't even know it!

-Sometimes God does incredible things in our lives, but we don't even notice them. Can you think of any ways that would help you be more aware of when God moves?

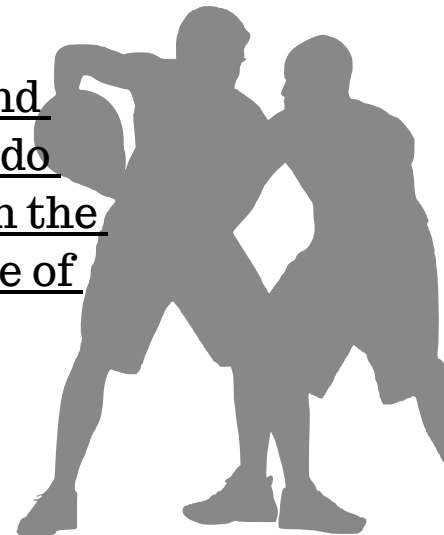
Verse: "Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, 'Who do the crowds say I am?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; Others say Elijah...'"

## Week 7: And still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

Last week, we talked about how some people thought Jesus was really just the prophet Elijah. Today we are continuing the story with the rest of the disciples' response “...and still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come to life.” When the crowds heard the kinds of things Jesus was saying, they wondered if maybe He was just a prophet like Elijah. Prophets had the job of talking to God for the people, or talking to the people for God. This is something that Jesus did! The difference is that Jesus wasn't just sending messages between God and people, but Jesus actually is God! Calling Jesus a prophet is like saying LeBron James can dribble a basketball. It is true, but it doesn't even come close to telling you who they actually are! Jesus is God. Jesus is perfect. He came to save us.

- Have you ever sold Jesus short like this? And assumed that He was less powerful than He actually is?
- What do your expectations of Jesus look like? Do you believe that He is perfect and powerful?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; Others say Elijah; And still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.’”



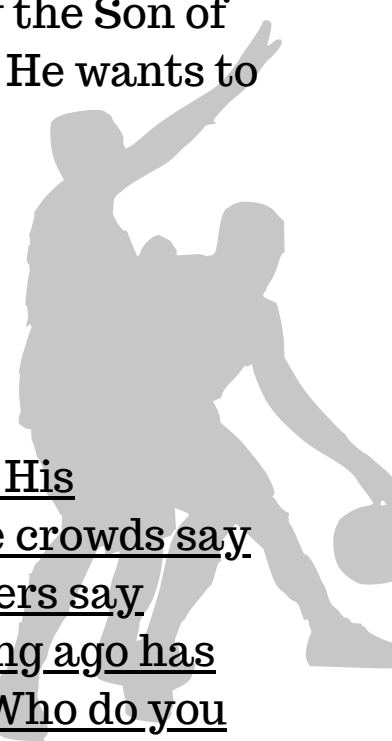


Week 8: “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Last week, we talked about how some people thought that Jesus was just one of the prophets from long ago. Today we are finishing the story with one final question from Jesus, and one final response from Peter “‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘God’s Messiah.’” We have been building up to this verse all season long. We have talked about how Jesus was confused with John the Baptist. He was assumed to be Elijah. Other people thought that Jesus was just one of the many many other prophets. But today we get to talk about who Jesus really is. Jesus is God’s Messiah. This means that Jesus came to earth to save us. Jesus loves us so much that He chose to leave heaven to come be with us. He lived a perfect life on earth, and then He died on the cross. When He died, He gave himself up for us so that we could have a relationship with God. But Jesus did not stay dead. After 3 days, Jesus rose again and defeated death so that we can have eternal life with Him. Jesus was far more than a prophet, Jesus was truly the Son of God who came to save us all. Jesus is incredible, and He wants to know who you say He is.

- Who is Jesus to you?
- Do you believe that Jesus came to Earth as God’s Messiah? How does that affect us today?

Verse: “Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; Others say Elijah; And still others that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.’ ‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘God’s Messiah.’”



## Week 9: Season Reflection and Review

Take a few minutes to reflect on this season.

### Questions:

What are some memories you made? What will you take away from the devotional time this season?





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