

# An Outline to the movie ~ “Son of God”

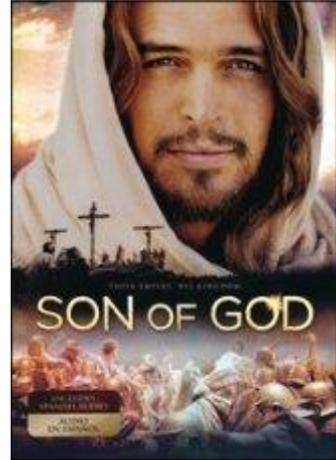
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Note: The “scene” numbers correspond to the Scene Menu found in the Son of God DVD’s Main Menu. Your DVD player or computer software may refer to it as a “chapter.” The scene questions have been added by the author.

## Scene 1: (approx. 2 minutes)

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox logo
- John on Patmos (John is the sometimes narrator) quotes John1: "In the beginning was the Word." Images of Old Testament stories, "He was there when...." "Then he came into our world."

Question: If Jesus was there at all those stories? who is John saying Jesus really is?



## Scene 2: (approx. 3 minutes)

- Opening Credits as we see images of the Birth, Wise Men and Star.
- “The Word became flesh”
- Birth of Jesus, Wisemen bring gifts, Mary calls him “Jesus”
- John speaks, “I am John, and I was one of his followers....”
- Movie Title: Son of God

Question: John says, “I am one of his followers. After what I saw, how could I not be?” What have WE/YOU seen to make you believe?

\*See note on last page about additional “Advent” scenes found in “The Bible.”

## Scene 3: (approx. 3 minutes)

- Jewish land, Jewish nation, under Roman rule.
- Occupied and oppressed, crucifixion of victims, we prayed for a Savior, a Messiah.

Question: “John says we craved a Savior, a Messiah.” Why did they?

## Scene 4: (approx. 5 minutes)

- We see Jesus walking in the hills of Galilee
- Jesus climbs into Peter's boat (The Call of the Disciples)
- Peter catches the fish. Disciples follow.

Question: Was the miracle enough to make Peter and the others follow? What else did you see in the relationship/encounter with Jesus that helped them choose to follow?

## Scene 5: (approx. 5 minutes)

- A teaching Pharisee is interrupted by the arrival of Jesus.
- Jesus is teaching the parable of the mustard seed
- Paralytic let down through the roof

Question: Why was the Pharisee upset with Jesus?

**Scene 6:** (approx. 4 minutes)

- “Jerusalem” ...King Herod Antipas welcomes Pilate to Jerusalem
- Scene 7: (approx. 4 minutes)
- Jesus calls Matthew and the disciples question the choice. Peter says, “Jesus did not come for the good, but for the sinners.”
- Sermon on the Mount, the Lord’s Prayer

Question: When you look at some of the people in our church/classroom who say they are followers of Jesus, do you too question Jesus’ choice of followers? What do these choices say about Jesus?

**Scene 8:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- The woman caught in adultery

Question: “When the crowd put down their stones, what were they admitting about themselves?”

**Scene 9:** (approx. 1 minute)

- The Pharisee complains
- Peter invites the Pharisee to join them.

Question: What complaints do you have about some other Christians and the way they act? What does Peter say to the Pharisee about “why” he follows Jesus? (he’s leading us to something greater). What is that “something greater”?

**Scene 10:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- Jesus on the Sea of Galilee
- Feeding the 5000
- Nicodemus talks to Caiaphas

Question: After watching this scene, how would you describe Jesus’ personality and popularity?

**Scene 11:** (approx. 6 minutes)

- Jesus and the disciples around the campfire: Who do you think I am?
- Jesus walks on water

Question: Has anyone ever asked you this question? How did Jesus say we know how to answer that question? (it is from God)

**Scene 12:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Caiaphas encounters a protest.
- Pilate’s men attack the crowd.

Question: This scene previews the kind of dangers Jesus and his followers were walking into in Jerusalem. What was going on? This scene also tries to give the reason why Caiaphas wanted to keep rebels under control, to protect the peace.

## Jesus in Space CD



**Scene 13:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Jesus and the disciples meet Martha who announces that her brother is dead
- Jesus raises Lazarus
- Nicodemus meets with Caiaphas
- Pilate's wife's dream

Question: What does the raising of Lazarus tell you about Jesus' emotions, care, and power?

**Scene 14:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Jesus visits Nazareth, comes home to Mary
- Jesus reads from Isaiah in the synagogue, "today, this scripture is fulfilled"
- Pharisee confronts Jesus and accuses him of healing by demons
- Jesus says to Peter, "Turn the other cheek"

Question: Jesus declares that he fulfills the prophecy of the One who would come to save. Why did the Pharisee argue with Jesus?



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**Scene 15:** (approx. 1 minute)

- Jesus and the disciples remember John the Baptist (who has been killed)

Question: What does Jesus say about John the Baptist?

**Scene 16:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Triumphal Entry ("Palm Sunday")
- Barrabas the zealot appeals to Jesus to "save us"

Question: Jesus is riding a donkey, which is the sign of a King (from Zechariah). What question does Barrabas ask Jesus? And what answer is he given? ("we come in peace") (Note: this encounter is not in scripture.)

**Scene 17:** (approx. 1 minute)

- Nicodemus and Caiaphas speak about Jesus.
- Pilate hears about Jesus
- Judas visits a Roman soldier. He's worried things are getting out of control.

Question: What do you think Nicodemus meant when he said, "There is something unusual about him"

**Scene 18:** (approx. 4 minutes)

- Jesus cleanses the Temple
- Jesus is challenged by Nicodemus, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's"
- Caiaphas sends Malchus to speak to Judas

Question: What was Jesus upset about in the Temple?

**Scene 19:** (approx. 2 minute)

- Jesus tells a child about the Temple that “not one stone will be left standing”
- Caiaphas and others decided to move swiftly
- Barabbas stirs a protest and Pilate gets angry with Caiaphas

Question: Do you think Jesus really meant he would tear down the stones of the Temple? What did he mean?

**Scene 20:** (approx. 4 minutes)

- Nicodemus visits Jesus on his own.
- Caiaphas meets with Judas. “He has the power to cause trouble!”
- Caiaphas makes accusations about Jesus.
- Caiaphas speaks to Malchus and Nicodemus: “Better one man than the nation”

Question: Why does Caiaphas want Jesus gotten rid of?

**Scene 21:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- The Upper Room, Last Supper, Jesus predicts his death

**Scene 22:** (approx. 1 minute)

- Jesus says, “one of you here will betray me” and gives Judas bread
- Jesus predicts Peter’s denial

Question: How do you think Jesus felt about his followers that night? About what was going to happen?

**Scene 23:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Judas is brought before Caiaphas and told to lead Malchus to Jesus.
- Judas, Malchus and soldiers come to Gethsemane as Jesus is praying “spare me”
- Caiaphas and Pilate’s wife are seen worshipping their gods.

Question: Why motivated Judas to betray Jesus?

**Scene 24:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- Jesus is captured and taken to Caiaphas. Jesus is roughed up along the way.
- Judas throws the money at Caiaphas
- Caiaphas interrogates Jesus.

Question: What was Caiaphas trying to get Jesus to say? (that he was a blasphemer, which was punishable by death)

**Scene 25:** (Approx. 5 minutes)

- Caiaphas assembles the Sanhedrin and puts Jesus on trial
- John and Magdalene tell Mary that Jesus has been arrested
- Trial continues before Caiaphas – “Are you the Son of God?” “I am.”

Question: Watch for their reactions. Do you think all the Priests thought Jesus was guilty? Wanted him dead?

**Scene 26:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- In the morning, Jesus' sentence is publicly announced
- Judas throws the money at Malchus
- Peter denies knowing Jesus

Question: Why did Judas have a change of heart? (This is an age-old question. Perhaps he thought they wouldn't treat him so bad, or thought Jesus would show his power.) Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? Have you ever denied him?

**Scene 27:** (approx. 6 minutes)

- Caiaphas asks Pilate to execute Jesus. Makes his case against Jesus, "whipping up rebellion."
- Pilate speaks to Jesus.
- Pilate tells Caiaphas Jesus isn't guilty, says let people decide, give Jesus 40 lashes

Question: What Caiaphas accuse Jesus of? Do you think Pilate wanted to execute Jesus? What was he afraid of?

**Scene 28:** (approx. 2 minutes)

- John, Mary and Mary Magdala talk to Peter, admits denying him.
- The whipping of Jesus. Pilate says, "As if he knows this must happen."
- Judas prepares to hang himself.

Question: What do the other disciples do and say to help Peter with his guilt? What did Pilate mean when he said, "As if he knows this must happen" ??

**Scene 29:** (approx. 2 minutes)

- Jesus is mocked by the soldiers who give him a crown of thorns.
- Pilate lets the crowd choose either Barabbas or Jesus.
- Judas kills himself.

Question: Why are some people cruel?

**Scene 30:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- Jesus carries his cross. (Scenes from the triumphal entry are interspersed. Jesus tells Mary not to be afraid.
- Simon from Cyrene helps Jesus. (Tradition has it that he became a follower after that.)

Question: How are you asked to carry Jesus' cross?

**Scene 31:** (approx. 6 minutes)

- Pilate and Caiaphas argue about the sign to be put on Jesus' cross
- Jesus collapses, a woman wipes his brow.
- We see sacrifices offered in the Temple.
- Jesus at Golgotha (Calvary) is nailed to the cross.
- Pilate's wife says he'll regret this.

Question: Why did Pilate and Caiaphas argue over the sign? What did Pilate's wife mean when she says, "you'll regret this"?

**Scene 32:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- Jesus is raised on the cross.
- Father forgive them...The Thieves...Mother this is your son....My God my God...I thirst
- Caiaphas in the Temple and Peter in the Upper Room.

Question: When you see how Jesus was crucified, how does it make you feel about him, and about humanity? What were the soldiers' reactions to Jesus as they heard and saw him dying? Note: When Jesus says, "My God my God....," he is quoting Psalm 22.

**Scene 33:** (approx. 5 minutes)

- Wind and darkness
- It's finished...Father into your hands....
- Earthquake. The soldier pierces Jesus' side.
- Jesus taken down from cross
- Mary and Nicodemus prepare Jesus for burial
- Disciples meet in the Upper Room. "Where were you?"

Question: How did Jesus' death "shake" the world? Did you notice that some priests helped with Jesus' body? What does this mean? (Note: the piercing of his side was considered an act of mercy.)

**Scene 34:** (approx. 4 minutes)

- "3 Days Later"
- Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, sees Jesus and runs to tell the disciples.
- Peter, John and Mary Magdalene visit the empty tomb.
- Resurrection appearance in the Upper Room.

Questions: Why didn't Mary recognize the risen Lord at first? How did she know it was him? (he made himself known to her) How do we come recognized Jesus (he makes himself known to us!)

**Scene 35:** (approx. 4 minutes)

- "40 Days Later"
- Jesus promises the power of the Holy Spirit, Great Commission, The Ascension
- Flash forward: John on Patmos remembers Jesus.
- "What if he's not the one?" "Don't be afraid....trust in me."
- "I am the Way...." "I am the Alpha and the Omega."
- John sees and hears Jesus. "I am making everything new. I am coming soon."

Questions: What does Jesus leave behind with his disciples? What does he tell them to do?

John says all the disciples died for preaching about Jesus. Then we see a flashbacks where Jesus says, "don't be afraid." What do we have to be prepared to "give up" today to follow Jesus? What PROMISES does Jesus give John at the end of the movie?

Note: John is seen living on the Isle of Patmos. This is the Greek island that the writer of the Book of Revelation wrote that he was on. His name was John too. Scholars disagree if it was the same John as John the disciple.



**Scene 36:** (approx. 3 minutes)

- Closing Credits with montage of highlights to the song “Mary Did You Know.”
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## **Scenes about Jesus you can find in “The Bible” mini-series that are not in “Son of God” movie.**

Son of God was originally released in theaters in 2014, but much of its content was also used in the 2013 mini-series, “The Bible.”

In his “Film Chat” blog on Patheos.com, Peter Chattaway lists the differences between Son of God and The Bible mini-series with regard to Jesus’ story. I have summarized those which will be of most interest to Sunday School teachers.

### **In “The Bible” movie, but not in Son of God movie:**

- The Annunciation to Mary
- Herod’s meeting with the Wisemen
- Herod slaughters the innocents
- John the Baptist
- Jesus is baptized by John
- The temptation of Jesus
- Herod and John the Baptist (extensive)
- Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea claim Jesus’ body

Outline courtesy of Neil MacQueen, [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)

### **Notes and Tips:**

There are many additional short scenes within each Scene. I have only mentioned the major ones in this outline. When a character is first introduced, it is a good idea with children to announce who it is as the video is rolling so they are not confused. Peter and young John look rather similar, for example, and it is a good idea to identify Caiphas, Nicodemus, and the teaching Pharisee. As well, in my opinion the crucifixion scene in this movie is too intense for young children.