

WHO IS JESUS?

The Bible tells the story of how God continually pursues a relationship with people throughout history. He made the world, created people as his children, supernaturally helped establish a unique nation as “his people,” and sent prophets to call people back to him. The climax of the story is arguably God’s greatest miracle – the incarnation, where God became a man, Jesus, who lived among us with the purpose of making God known to us (*John 1:14-18*).

Jesus is God. Every aspect of his life reflects deity. He is all powerful, though he took on the weaknesses of humanity. He never sinned, yet he understands temptation, relates to us, and even forgives us. He lived the perfect example of a human life as an example for us to follow. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the author of salvation. The most important question we will ever answer is, “Who is Jesus?”

OPENING QUESTION: *Who do you believe Jesus is?*

1. Jesus is God in the Flesh

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

- What did God do to help us understand him?
 - God caused his Word to become a man so we could know him.
- **Analogy:** imagine you are all-powerful and you want to communicate with an ant colony to let them understand how much you love them. How would you do it? One of the most effective ways would be to become an ant yourself.

2. All the Fullness of God Lives in Christ

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... (Colossians 2:9)

- Every aspect of God’s character can be seen in Christ.

What do you learn from each of these scriptures?

1) Jesus is All Powerful (*Mark 4:35-41*)

- Jesus, like God, has all power and controls nature. Jesus is fully God.

2) Jesus was Without Sin (*Luke 4:1-13*)

- Like us, he was tempted with lust (v.3), materialism/power (v.6-7), and pride (v.9-10).
- Jesus used the scriptures to fight temptation and never sinned. (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)

3) Jesus Relates to Us

- *Hebrews 2:14-18* – Jesus shared in our humanity so he could free us from fear and help us when we are tempted.
- *Hebrews 4:14-16* – Jesus, like God, can sympathize with our weaknesses.

4) Jesus was Focused on God and Mission (*Mark 1:29-39*)

- Jesus compassionately met people’s needs (v.29-33).
- Prayer was his top priority (v.35). He stayed focused on his purpose (v.38).

5) Jesus Forgives (Luke 23:32-43)

- Jesus, like God, is forgiving and filled with love.

3. Our Goal is to Imitate Jesus

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6)

- **What does this scripture teach about knowing Jesus?**
 - Disciples are followers and imitators of Jesus.
 - Our desire as a Christian is to be like Jesus.
 - This includes knowing and obeying his commands.

4. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

- **What does it mean to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life?**
 - **The Way** – exclusive, not just a way, the only way to God.
 - **The Truth** – not just some truth, the whole truth of God.
 - **The Life** – not another alternative, the life we were created to live: an attractive, successful, fulfilling life!

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

- What we believe about Jesus is the most important decision we will ever make!

CONCLUSION

- What amazes you the most about Jesus?
- Who do you believe Jesus is?
- Do you want to study to learn what it means to follow Jesus?

CHALLENGE

Read one of the gospels to learn more about Jesus. We recommend the Book of John, which was written to help people "*believe that Jesus is the Son of God*" (John 20:31). As you read the gospel, insert yourself into the stories as one of the characters Jesus is addressing. This will bring the Bible to life and the results will be life changing. Write down any questions that you have while you are reading so we can discuss during our next study.

Set up the next study.