

Lesson 4: Who Is Jesus?

CONNECTION:

- **Share with your small group.**
 - **How has your week been so far?**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Who do people say Jesus is? Why?
2. What are some reasons we believe Jesus is God?

WHO IS JESUS?

The true understanding of the person of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of all that we, as Christians, believe and hold as true. There are many false religions in our world which teach that Jesus was a good prophet, but not God. The truth is, if Jesus is not God we could not be eternally saved.

CLASS OBJECTIVE: TO SHOW THAT JESUS IS GOD.

What Jesus said about himself:

“I and the father are one”

John 10:27-33 (NIV)

I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Before Abraham was “I Am”

John 8:54-59 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

YHWH or Yahweh, the “I AM”

The four-consonant Hebrew word “YHWH” is the name by which God called Himself after revealing Himself to Moses in a burning bush ([Exo. 3:2a,14](#)) it means “I Am That I Am” or, more simply, “I AM.” This signifies that no one fully can describe or define God other than God Himself. “YHWH” is short for “Yahweh,” because the entire word was (and still is by many) regarded to be too sacred to speak or write. Many Christians use “Yahweh,” since Jesus taught us to speak in a familiar, personal manner to and about God.

While Jesus and His disciples were in an olive grove, Jesus knew that He soon would be betrayed ([John 18:1-7](#)). When the soldiers and officials came to arrest Jesus, He asked who it was that they wanted (18:4). When they replied, “Jesus of Nazareth,” Jesus’ response was, “I am he”—or, literally, “*I am*” (18:5). When Jesus stated this declaration to be God, “...they drew back and fell to the ground” (18:6). Why? Because they were in the direct presence of God in flesh and had experienced a momentary release of His overwhelming Power.

Some may argue that this was an isolated instance. But Jesus also used “I AM” for himself on several other occasions. Let’s look at some of these, trying to imagine our reactions upon hearing Jesus’ radical claims:

- “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)
- “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
- “I am the only way to the Father” (John 14:6)
- “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)
- “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11)
- “I am the door” (John 10:9)
- “I am the living bread” (John 6:51)
- “I am the true vine” (John 15:1)
- “I am the Alpha and Omega” Rev.1:7, 8)

“I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth”.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matt. 28:18 NIV

Mark 2:9-12 (NIV)

Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT JESUS.

John

John 1:1-5 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Thomas

John 20:28 (NIV)

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Titus

Titus 2:13 (NIV)

While we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Paul the Apostle

Col 1:15-19 (NIV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Phil 2:5-8 (NIV)

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Peter

Peter called Christ "God" (Theos). He wrote, "*Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ... by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1)*", the phrase Jesus Christ here acting as an appositive to God and Savior. (An appositive in Greek means that a noun or a noun phrase is used with another as an explanatory equivalent).

TITLES GIVEN TO JESUS

God	Rock	The Lord our healer
Savior	Redeemer	
Lord	The Lord of Righteousness	
King	Creator	
Judge	Giver of Life	
Light	Forgiver of sins	

Note: All these titles are used for God in the Old Testament

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS

1. He is omniscient – He knows all things – Matt. 16:21, Luke 6:8, John 4:29
2. He is omnipotent – He is all powerful – Colossians 1:15-20

Note: In His name mighty miracles take place – John 16:24

3. He displays power over:
 - Nature – Matt. 8:26-27
 - Demons – Luke 4:35-36
 - Death – John 11:39-44
 - Sickness and disease – Matt. 8:15-16
4. He is omnipresent – He is everywhere (only God can be everywhere) Matt. 28:20
5. He is immutable – He does not change – Heb. 1:10-12 13:8
6. He forgives sin – Only God can forgive sin – Mark 2:1-12

John 5:21-27 (NIV)

He will judge all people and give them eternal life or eternal judgment

Question to consider:

Why is it essential to understand and believe that Jesus is God?

Answer:

Our eternal salvation is dependent on who Jesus is.

Table talk:

As a result of the Deity of Jesus we can be confident that He has the power and the desire to meet all our needs according to His riches in glory.
Take some time and pray in the wonderful name of Jesus for one another.

Homework: Read and work through pages 28 - 33

WHO IS JESUS?

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I. OBJECTIVE

To discover the true nature of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 1:1-2 (READ 1:1-18)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, 'This was he of whom I said, ' "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me." From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,"

TITUS 2:13

"while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

II. INTRODUCTION

The true understanding of the person of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of all that we, as Christians, believe and hold as true. There are many false religions in our world which teach that Jesus was a good prophet, but not God. The truth of the matter is that if Jesus was not God the Son, part of the Holy Trinity, we could not be eternally saved.

Only the precious, perfect blood of God Almighty could take away all our sin throughout eternity.

The following words are adapted from the famous essay, "One Solitary Life":

"Jesus was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then, for three years, He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held public office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself ...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He endured a mock trial and was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

2,000 long years have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race. It can easily be stated that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever ruled and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

III. WAS JESUS GOD?

What did Jesus Christ say about who He is? Read and answer:

- John 8:58

Who is "I Am?" _____

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- John 10:30

Who is Jesus one with? _____

- Revelation 1:8 _____

- Matthew 28:18-20 _____

What did His disciples say about Jesus? Read and answer:

- Matthew 16:16-17 _____

- John 11:27 _____

- John 20:25-28 _____

What does scripture say about who Jesus is?

Read and answer:

- Colossians 1:15-17 _____

- John 1:1-2 _____

- Titus 2:13 _____

- Philippians 2:6 _____

IV. JESUS WAS FULLY GOD

Jesus Christ possesses attributes that can only belong to God:

1. He is omniscient

He knows all things about everyone.

Read Matthew 16:21; Luke 6:8; John 4:29

2. He is omnipotent

He is all-powerful.

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Who creates all things? _____

Who is before all things? _____

Who holds all things together? _____

3. In His name mighty miracles take place

Read John 16:24

4. He displays power

- Nature (Matthew 8:26-27)
- Demons (Luke 4:35-36)
- Death (John 11:39-44)
- Sickness and disease (Matthew 8:15-16)

5. He is omnipresent

He is everywhere (only God can be everywhere).

Read Matthew 18:20; 28:20

6. He is immutable

He does not change.

Read Hebrews 1:10-12, 13:8

7. He forgives sins

Only God can forgive sins

Read Mark 2: 1-12

8. He will judge all people and give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Read John 5:21-27

V. JESUS WAS ALSO FULLY HUMAN

Jesus Christ became a man to bear the sins of mankind in his flesh. Read and answer:

- Isaiah 53:1-12

Who bore our sins? _____

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Jesus became a man so he could:

- Bear our sins
- Feel our sorrow
- Sympathize with our pain
- Give us a model to follow
- Live a sinless life

- Hebrews 4:14-16

Why can Jesus sympathize with us as humans? _____

- Hebrews 5:7-8

How did Jesus learn obedience? _____

Why did Jesus have to live a sinless life? Reread the two scriptures above in Hebrews and give two reasons:

1. _____

2. _____

VI. JESUS IS LORD

Read and answer:

- Romans 10:9-10

What should we believe? _____

What should we confess? _____

- Philippians 2:9-11

What will everyone acknowledge to the glory of the Father? _____

- Isaiah 9:6-7

What else is Jesus called? _____

VII. CONCLUSION

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. The great prophets of Israel had predicted His coming hundreds of years before it actually came to pass. Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies about His coming.

When he was 30 years old, Jesus began his public ministry. His life, the miracles He did, His teachings, His death on the cross, His resurrection and His ascent to heaven all indicate that Jesus Christ was not just a mere man. He was God in the flesh.

Muhammad was only a prophet; Buddha admitted he was an agnostic; Confucius was a teacher of ethics. Jesus, however, claimed to be God. He asserted His deity when he declared, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)

Jesus Christ professed that He was God. You can dismiss his claims as false or you can believe in Him. If He is God then He is Lord and Savior over everyone. You can accept Him as your Lord and Savior or you can reject Him. It's your choice.

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