

Lesson 5

Who is Jesus, Really?

Paul says that some would preach a different Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4). Jesus asked the apostles who people said he was (Matthew 16:13). The fact is, many today believe in a “Jesus” that is made up—he exists only in their minds. Jesus was and is real and each of us must discover him for who he was and is, not how we wish he was or how we believe he should be. The purpose of this study is to cut through the misconceptions and see who the Bible reveals Jesus to be—to help the student see Jesus as he really is.

The Character of Christ

After spending some time discussing the homework from lesson 4, list the characteristics of Jesus that you observe for each passage.

1. Luke 2:41-52

2. Mark 1:40-45

3. Luke 19:1-10

4. Matthew 21:12-17

5. Luke 20:1-8

6. John 13:1-15

Philippians 2:5-11

1. How would following Jesus by imitating His character change your life?
2. What excuses do you make for not being like Him?
3. How do you think Jesus would respond if He heard them?

Evidence of Jesus in Scripture

If desired, look through each passage written by witnesses of Christ about his divine nature.

1. **2 Peter 1:16-18** - Peter bears testimony to Jesus' divinity as an eyewitness.
2. **1 John 1:1-4** - John also bears testimony to Jesus as an eyewitness.
3. **John 20:26-28** - John records Thomas's reactions to the facts—"My Lord and my God!"
4. **Acts 3:14-15** - Peter again states his case as an eyewitness.
5. **Acts 17:31** - Christ's resurrection is the final proof of his divinity and appointment as Savior.
6. **Acts 1:3** - Jesus gave many convincing proofs of his resurrection.

Matthew 16:15-16 *Who people say Jesus is*

1. Who do people today say Jesus is? *A myth. A good man. An "embellished" teacher. A liar and deceiver.* Who do you believe He is?
2. How will what you believe about Jesus affect your life? *If you truly believe He's Lord then you'll accept His lordship in your life. If you don't believe you won't accept Him, and you'll run your life to please yourself.*
3. How will believing the truth of who Jesus is change our lives?

Hebrews 1:3 *Jesus is God translated into the flesh.*

1. How does Jesus radiate God's glory? *Jesus demonstrated God's supernatural control of the physical world. He calmed the storm, healed the sick, and raised the dead. He himself was resurrected. We also see God's dominance over sin and evil. We see God's marvelous love, goodness, mercy, and compassion in Jesus.*
2. What is the meaning of the phrase, "the exact representation of [God's] being?" *Jesus is the living, earthly translation of the Spirit-God into the man-God.*

Colossians 1:15-20 *Jesus is supreme.*

1. What does Paul mean when he says Jesus is the firstborn? *He means Jesus as the descended God has the full rights of a firstborn over the whole estate. The "Son" part of the Godhead was not created but is an eternal part of God. Jesus was born into this world, however.*
2. Who created everything (v.16)? *Jesus.*
3. Consider what it means that everything in creation, even the evil empire, was created by him and for him.
4. For whom did He create it (v.16)? *Himself.*
5. List what else He is (vv.17-20).
 - a. Before all things - He pre-existed the creation.
 - b. Holds all things together - He sustains the universe.
 - c. Head of the body, the church - He is Lord of the church.
 - d. The beginning and firstborn among the dead - He overcame death and Hades.
 - e. Has supremacy - He's in charge.
 - f. All God's fullness lived in Jesus - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - g. Reconciled everything to God - He's the only way to God.
 - h. Made peace through His blood - He covers our sin with his blood.

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Homework

Reading the Word

Read Matthew 5-7. Write in your own words what does it mean to be a Christian?

Challenging Yourself

Write down something you can do this week to imitate Jesus. Include practical steps on how you will accomplish it. Next time, share what you did.