



GOD QUESTIONS
LifeGroup Study
“Who is Jesus Really?”
May 26th, 2019

The claim Christians makes that Jesus really existed, that He is God and that He came to rescue us is both valid and absolutely necessary. The goal of today’s study is that we would be confident of the identity and person of Jesus. This confidence can grow our own faith in God and grow our desire to see others find the hope and peace that is only found in Jesus.

ICBREAKER: Throughout his lifetime there have been a few humorous occasions where my dad has been mistaken for someone else. One time, someone thought he was a prince! Another time, someone thought he was James Dobson (Focus on the Family founder). ☺ Have you or someone you know been mistaken for someone else? Share your story with the group.

MEMORY VERSE: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* John 1:1

STUDY:

VIDEO LINK: God Questions Part 5. Nabeel Qureshi – Why Believe Jesus Christ is God?

www.lifegroupleaders.ca/studies

VIDEO NOTES Use the following as a reference as you watch the video.

Why Believe Jesus Christ is God?

To reason/argue that Jesus is God, we must start at the beginning. John 1:1

John 1:18 “No one has ever seen God, but God, the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”

John 1 – what verses do you see that describe Jesus as God?

Philo – Jewish philosopher – how does the transcendent God interact with the world? Through the Logos – Jesus.

God is one in being and three in person.

A being is that quality that makes a thing what it is.

A person is what makes me who I am.

Each human is one person.

God is three Persons in one.

How can Jesus say, “The Father is greater than I?” (John 14:28)

I can say, the president of the United States is greater than me – terms of role. But the president is not greater than me in terms of essence.

The Father is superior in terms of role.

Is the Father greater than Jesus in terms of essence? No. They are one.

1 Corinthians 15 – Jesus subjects himself the glory of the Father.

Mark 14:62, “I am,” said Jesus, “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Daniel 7 – The Son of Man riding on the clouds of heaven.

Psalms 110:1 – “Sit at my right hand.” IOW - Rule the universe with me. You are my heir.

Philippians 2: Although Jesus existed in the form of God, He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.

Isaiah 45 -

To Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

The earliest layer of Christian history that we have access to shows these early believers worshiping Jesus as God. They were very careful to only worship God, so the answer we must come up with is Jesus claimed to be God and they witnessed those claims and the miracles that backed up the claims.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus Claimed to Be God and Accepted the Affirmation of Others of His Deity

In the Gospels we find Jesus' claims to be God as well as affirmations of His deity from His followers.

Subgroup into teams of two or three. Have each subgroup look up and read some of the following references and prepare to share their findings with the group.

- What is the context in which Jesus shares these words?
- What does Jesus say to claim He is God?
- What was the response of his listeners, or what do you think it might have been?
- How do these words encourage you in your faith?

Matthew 16:13-17, John 8:22-24, John 8:58, John 10:30, John 11:25-27, John 17:21, John 20:27-28, Revelation 1:17-18

Jesus's Teachings and Actions Carried the Authority of God

Source: Is Jesus God? The Divinity of Christ in the NT. <https://www.gfcto.com/articles/theological-issues/is-jesus-god>

Although there are relatively few times where Jesus makes a direct claim to be God, there are many instances in the Gospels where Jesus' teaching and actions indicate His deity.

1. Jesus' Reply about His Identity to John the Baptist

READ Matthew 11:2-6

- See Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:5-6, 61:1. How do these verses show us Jesus' authority as God?
- What do you think John the Baptist's response was when he heard Jesus' reply to his question?

2. Jesus' Authority over the Old Testament

READ Matthew 5:17, 21-48

- In Matthew 5:17, what does Jesus claim about Himself in relation to the Old Testament law?

- Jesus' teaching in verses 21-48 are a prime example of His authority over the Old Testament. With each teaching, Jesus begins with the words, "You have heard it said ..." and then, "but I say ...". In doing this, Jesus shows that He has the inherent authority to reinterpret what Moses and the Jews had received from the Father. Do you think anyone besides God would have had authority to do this? Why or why not?

3. Jesus' Authority over the Sabbath

READ. Matthew 12:1-8

- What does Jesus say in verse 6 that shows His authority over the Sabbath?

READ John 5:16-26

- In John 5 – Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath. He goes on to teach that He has authority to work on the Sabbath, to heal and to raise from the dead. How did his hearers respond to this? What does this tell us about how they understood Jesus' claims about Himself?

4. Jesus' Authority to Forgive Sins

Luke 5:17-26

- In verse 21, the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy. "Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus doesn't deny their accusation. Why do you think Jesus would choose to reveal His deity in this way?

CONCLUSION

In the New Testament, the disciples and the early church are profoundly centred on the person of Jesus. His deity is seen in the authority in which He acts in the gospels and in the claims He makes about Himself. There is much more we could study, but what we have looked at in this session should give us plenty of evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be, the very Son of God.

PRAYER

Spend time now praying for one another. Ask God to give you a growing confidence in Jesus, the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

THE BIG SERVE. Be a part of something bigger than yourself! Join us as we serve our incredible region of Waterloo June 1 – 8. Check it out!

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/>