



Group Session



Small Group Study

Volume Overview

Who is Jesus?

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

We know that the Bible gives us insight into who Jesus is and what that means for us. But why is it important for us to know who Jesus is? Imagine following someone that you don't know. Knowing Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice invites us to know Him as our Lord and Savior and ultimately as our God.

You Will Need

- *Group Activity Slide*

Getting Ready

- *First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.*

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.

QUESTION

If you could have dinner with any person from history, who would you choose and why?

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for this group of students. Also, thank Him for His Son Jesus. Ask the Lord to make the Bible come alive through His Holy Spirit and to open everyone's eyes to see who Jesus really is.

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Introduction

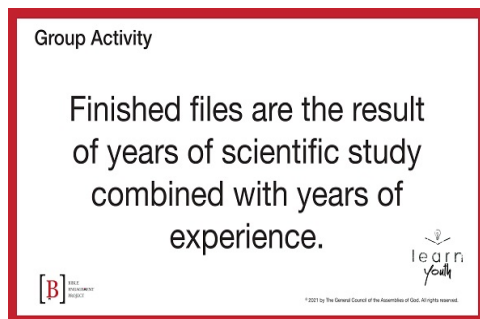
Jesus was a human, but He was more than *just* a human. He was fully God at the same time. Let's take a look at how we can know that Jesus was God as well as what that means for us today.

Group Activity

Do You See It?

Before we look at what the Bible has to say about Jesus, I want to do a really simple activity. Let's see how closely you're paying attention. I'm going to show you a slide for ten seconds. I want you to count the number of times that you see the letter *F* in this sentence. Don't yell out your answer or share it with anyone. Just keep it to yourself until I give you more instructions.

- *Show the **Group Activity Slide**.*



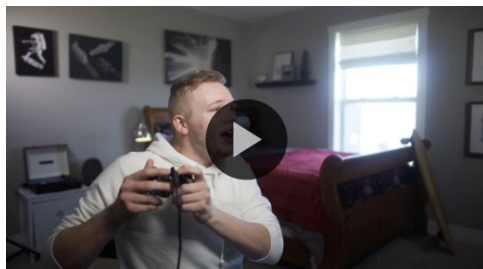
How many times did the letter *F* appear in the sentence on the slide? Raise your hand when I say your answer. One? Two? Three? Four? Five? Does anyone see more than five?

Let's see how many there are.

- *Look at the slide again and allow some time for discussion to make sure that everyone sees all of the *F*s in the sentence.*

There are six of the letter *F* in this sentence. Most people only get three because they don't recognize the word *of* three times. Maybe that's because in our mind, we pronounce it as [əv]. This exercise is designed to make you miss what's right in front of you. In today's Scripture, some of the disciples had an "aha" moment about something that had been right in front of them all along too. Let's watch the video.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

QUESTION

How might people that you know describe Jesus, either positively or negatively?

QUESTION

Think of other world religions that you are familiar with. What makes Christianity, and especially Jesus, different from them?

People have all sorts of opinions about Jesus. Some other religions even admit that Jesus existed and was a good teacher. As we look at what the Bible has to say about Jesus, listen as the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus the way God wants us to know Him.

Jesus' Resurrection Proves That He Is Who He Said He Is

Read John 20:1–9.

QUESTION

When Mary Magdalene and the disciples found the empty tomb, what did they initially think had happened to Jesus?

QUESTION

Why do you think they were so shocked to find the tomb empty?

Verse 9 lets us know that even Jesus' closest followers didn't fully understand that He would be resurrected. They likely felt a lot of pain because they thought Jesus' life was over.

QUESTION

Put yourself in Mary Magdalene's shoes. How do you think you would have responded if you went to visit Jesus' grave, only to find it empty?

When Mary and the others found Jesus' empty tomb, they might have thought that they had walked into a crime scene. Instead, they came to the event that would change the course of history. Jesus' resurrection sets Him apart from every other person or religious figure in the world. While every other religious figure's life has an end, Jesus is eternally alive! When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved once and for all that He is who He said He was.

QUESTION

Verse 8 says that the disciple believed when he went into the empty tomb. What specifically do you think he believed at that moment?

QUESTION

If Jesus' death on the Cross was for the forgiveness of our sins, then why do you think His resurrection is so important?

Paul reminds us later in the New Testament that if Jesus had not been resurrected, our entire faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:13–14). Anyone can die and say that it was for a noble cause. Jesus' resurrection proved that He was far more than just a man. He conquered death. His mission of saving humanity had not been stopped.

Jesus Wants to Reveal Himself to Humanity

Read John 20:11–18.

QUESTION

What is the first thing John recorded Jesus doing after His resurrection?

Jesus' love and care for His followers is easy to see in this part of the story. Jesus saw Mary Magdalene's tears, and He called her by name in her moment of pain.

QUESTION

When does Mary Magdalene realize that Jesus' body wasn't stolen, but He was resurrected?

QUESTION

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to reveal himself to different people after His resurrection?

Imagine if Jesus' followers had only found an empty tomb, but never saw Him after His resurrection. It would be reasonable for them to assume that someone had stolen His body. If they only saw Jesus but never saw the empty tomb, it would have been reasonable to assume that they were hallucinating. But both facts—the empty tomb and the appearances of Jesus—helped them and us to understand that Jesus did rise from the dead.

The first order of business for the living Jesus was to make sure that those closest to Him knew He was alive. It was a high priority for Jesus to help them understand what had happened and who He really was. And we'll see in the next verses that it was an unlikely disciple who first really understood.

We Must Choose to Trust Jesus as God

Read John 20:24–29.

A lot of people said a lot of things about Jesus. But the words of Thomas, a disciple who had doubts, were some of the most important. This is the first recorded time one of Jesus' followers called Him "God." Some called Him Messiah, some Teacher, and some even Lord, but Thomas finally understood that Jesus was more than all of this. Jesus is God!

QUESTION

Have you ever had doubts about Jesus being God? How do you deal with these doubts?

QUESTION

What do you notice about Jesus' response to Thomas and his questions?

When we have questions about faith in Jesus like Thomas did, we can be honest about them. Jesus didn't get mad at Thomas. He just showed him evidence of the truth that He really had risen from the dead. And Thomas finally understood that Jesus really is God.

QUESTION

How does Jesus' resurrection strengthen your faith that He's alive today and at work in your life?

QUESTION

When you acknowledge Jesus as Lord and God, how does it affect your worship? What about your obedience?

Did You Know?

There's a good reason the women didn't prepare Jesus' body until more than a day after He was placed in a tomb. The day after Jesus' death was the Sabbath. This was the weekly time that the Jews rested from work. Sabbath rules regarding labor required that the women wait to prepare the body of Jesus until Sunday morning. After arriving, they discovered their preparations would no longer be necessary. Jesus had risen!

Reflect

Jesus Is God

The world is full of people who think of faith in Jesus as a part-time thing. But just like Thomas, Jesus wants us to have total and complete faith in Him all the time, not just part of the time. He deserves full obedience as our Lord and full worship as our God. Today, Jesus is revealing himself to you and asking you to trust Him and follow Him with your whole life.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in Jesus as God. This question is meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

QUESTION

Examine your own life. In what areas are you holding back from fully trusting in Jesus as God?

Activate

After fully recognizing that Jesus was God, the disciples didn't just sit around. They had a renewed passion and confidence to share the gospel everywhere. Jesus doesn't want us to simply agree with the fact that He is God. He wants it to spur us on to practical next steps in our own life.

QUESTION

Who is one person in your life who doesn't know and trust that Jesus is God? Pray for them by name every day this week. Then invite them to join you at a church service or this group next time we're together.

Conclusion

The entire Bible makes it clear that Jesus was more than just a man. Jesus is the Son of God, and His resurrection proved it (Romans 1:4). People around us may give Jesus different names and identities. But we can remain confident that He is who He says He is because He rose from the dead. We don't just say that we believe it, though. Jesus wants us to devote our whole life to Him as our Lord and as our God.

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Seeing Jesus as Lord and God means committing every day of our life to Him. We can live in relationship with God because of Jesus' death on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead. If you'd like to experience Jesus' forgiveness of sins and His unconditional love, all you need to do is believe in your heart that Jesus really is Lord. Then confess that you need Him, and invite Him into your life.

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as we close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Prayer

Jesus, we know that You're alive because You rose from the dead. Thank You for revealing yourself to us and making a way for us to know You. Help us to live for You as our Lord and as our God. We pray for those who don't know You. We ask that all would hear that You are alive and love them. Help us to be a part of that mission. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Next time, we'll continue to talk about Jesus and how He forgives us of our sins. Don't forget the personal devotions provided for you on your app. These will help you live a life committed to Jesus every day. I can't wait to see you next time as we learn more about Jesus together through God's Word.