

Small Group Guide

"One Lord, Jesus Christ" | What's a Christian Anyway? Pt. 3

Before You Begin

Invite someone to read aloud this portion of the Nicene Creed as an opening declaration for your group:

"We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation..."

Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation.

Key Takeaways

These are the central ideas from the sermon to keep in mind as you discuss:

1. The four titles given to Jesus in the Creed -- Lord, Jesus, Christ, and Son of God -- each reveal something essential about who He is. Together they declare that Jesus is the Only Saving King.
2. Jesus is not created by God but is eternally begotten of God -- He is God shared out from God, Light from Light, True God from True God. He is not a knock-off or a lesser version of God.
3. Because Jesus is the eternal Creator and Source of all things, He alone has the power to save anyone from anything.
4. Jesus became incarnate, was crucified, died, and was buried -- specifically for our sake and for our salvation -- taking on the death that sin produces so that we do not have to.
5. Our response to Jesus as Saving King is repentance: turning away from every other thing we have made our saving king and turning fully to Jesus.

Icebreaker

Milissa opened with a story about a kindergarten show-and-tell game called "What's in the Bag," where a student confidently presented something that was not quite what he thought it was.

- When you were growing up, what did you think Christianity was mostly about? How has that picture changed or grown over time?

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Who is Jesus?

1. Milissa walked through four titles given to Jesus in the Creed: Lord, Jesus, Christ, and Son of God. Which of these titles is most meaningful to you personally right now, and why?
2. The title "Lord" carries a political weight -- it was the title claimed by Caesar and other rulers. What does it mean practically, in your daily life, to call Jesus Lord rather than simply a good teacher or a wise guide?
3. The name Jesus means "The Lord Saves." What does it mean to you that God chose this name intentionally and specifically before Jesus was even born?

Section 2: Why is Jesus the Saving King?

4. Milissa described heresies as knock-offs -- things that look like the real thing at first glance but fall apart on closer inspection. Have you ever encountered a version of Jesus that turned out to be a reduced or distorted picture of who He really is? What was missing?
5. The Creed declares that Jesus is "begotten, not made" -- that He is not a creation of God but is God sharing Himself out into the world. Why does this distinction matter? How does it change what we can expect from Jesus?
6. John 1:1-3 describes Jesus as the Word who was with God, who was God, and through whom all things were made. If Jesus is truly the Source and Creator of all things, what does that mean for the things in your life that feel out of control or beyond repair?

Section 3: How is Jesus the Saving King?

7. The Creed is deliberate in saying Jesus was crucified, suffered death, and was buried -- not just crucified. Why do you think the writers of the Creed emphasized each of these steps? What does it mean to you that Jesus went all the way through death?
8. Milissa asked the group to reflect honestly: What have you made your saving king instead of Jesus? She listed careers, bank accounts, relationships, fame, therapy, family, and titles as examples. Which of these -- or something else -- do you find yourself most tempted to rely on for salvation, security, or wholeness?
9. Peter's message in Acts 2 ended with a call to repent and be baptized. Repentance means turning away from other kings and turning to Jesus. Is there an area of your life right now where you sense an invitation to that kind of turning?

Reflection Pause

Take two or three minutes of quiet before answering this question individually, then share with the group if you feel comfortable:

- Milissa asked: "What do you need saving from?" Be honest with yourself. What burden, habit, fear, or sin are you carrying that only Jesus as Saving King can truly address?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again:

1. STUDY THE TITLES -- Pick one of the four titles of Jesus (Lord, Jesus, Christ, Son of God) and spend time this week reading about it in Scripture. Write down what you discover about who Jesus is through that title and bring it back to share with the group.
2. EXAMINE YOUR BAG -- Milissa challenged the group to consider what version of Jesus they have been carrying around. This week, write down your honest, unfiltered answer to this question: "Who have I actually been treating Jesus as in my day-to-day life?" Compare that answer to what the Creed declares about Him.
3. IDENTIFY YOUR SAVING KING -- Make a list of the things you spend the most time, energy, and emotional investment on. Prayerfully ask God to show you whether any of these things have taken the place of Jesus as your primary source of security, identity, or hope. Bring one honest observation to share with your group.

4. PRACTICE REPENTANCE -- Repentance is not just feeling sorry but actively turning. This week, identify one specific area where you have been looking to something other than Jesus to save or sustain you. Pray a simple prayer of repentance and consciously redirect that area of your life under the lordship of Jesus.
5. READ FURTHER -- Milissa recommended the book "What's A Christian, Anyway?" by Glenn Packiam for those who want to go deeper into the Nicene Creed. Consider reading it alongside your small group over the course of this series.

Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying together using these three movements:

- ACKNOWLEDGE -- Confess together that you have at times carried a smaller version of Jesus than who He truly is, and that you have looked to other things to save you.
- DECLARE -- Speak aloud together that Jesus is Lord, Saviour, Anointed One, and the one true God -- the Only Saving King.
- SURRENDER -- Each person silently or aloud surrenders one specific thing to Jesus as Lord, releasing it from the position of "saving king" in their life.

Memory Verse for the Week

Reflect on Acts 4:12 this week -- the declaration that salvation is found in no one else and that there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.