

CONVERGENCE

Discussion Guide

Let's Talk

Besides Jesus, who have been some influential examples or role models in your life? How have they influenced you?

Let's Study

Christians believe that there is one God, externally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How would you explain the Trinity to someone? Is there an illustration you have heard that's helpful?

Read Matthew 3:13-17.

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism to affirm Jesus' identity and also to lead and empower Jesus to do God's will. How did this change life for Jesus post-baptism?

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

What did it mean for Jesus not to cling to or not to grasp the power of deity?

Many assume Jesus was able to do what He did on earth (i.e. miracles and teachings) because He was God. Yet how do we apply this Scripture where it tells us that Jesus, though always God, deliberately chose to limit His divine attributes and power?

Read John 5:19 & 30.

Jesus is our model for Christian life and ministry, particularly how He was in relationship with His Father and the Holy Spirit. In what ways does this passage show you how Jesus related to them?

Read John 14:12.

If we have the same Holy Spirit in us, and the same gifts are given to us the church, do you believe we can do the same things Jesus did? What did Jesus mean by "they will do even greater things"?

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Let's Apply

What difference would it make to say, "I follow Jesus, the original Spirit-filled man" as a substitute for calling yourself a Christian? How would you explain that description? What might keep you from using it?

Jesus knew God's will because he practices spiritual disciplines. Brainstorm a list of spiritual practices that were a regular part of Jesus' life. In what ways are you following Jesus' example? Is there anything additional you are planning to start?

Let's Pray

Almighty God, fill us with your Spirit afresh today. Help us to imitate our Lord and Saviour Jesus in the way he relied on His Father's permission and the Spirit's empowerment in ministry.
Amen

Additional Resources

Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, Chapter Three
Jon Thompson, *Convergence*, chapter 2 (sanctuschurch.com/convergencebook)