

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

“Who do you say I am?” This is the question Jesus asked His disciples centuries ago, and it is the same one He asks us today. Many of us have false pictures and expectations of who Jesus really is. When people were introduced to Jesus 2,000 years ago, they expected the Son of God to show up as a conquering prince, vanquishing Israel’s enemies. Their picture of who God’s Son should be caused them to miss God’s Son completely.



BIG IDEA: Our perspective keeps us from seeing Jesus for who He really is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Matthew sees Jesus as King. Mark writes about Jesus as a Servant. Luke tells his Gospel through the eyes of Jesus as a man. And John speaks about Jesus as God.* How would you describe Jesus? How would one of your neighbors or co-workers describe Jesus?
2. In your mind’s eye, what did Jesus look like? Tall? Short? Skinny? Fat? Handsome? Curly hair or straight? Did he have light or dark complexion? Where did you get this picture of Him (films, paintings, books, Sunday School)?
3. Have you ever had the experience where someone ended up being different than you thought they were? How did it make you feel, to realize this person was not who you expected?
4. Do you think you have expectations of Jesus? What kind of expectations do you have? (These could be expectations that He will allow you to pass the test, even though you didn’t study, to an expectation for something much bigger—like a family member who is sick being healed.)
5. Has Jesus ever done what you didn’t expect, or *not* done something you *did* expect Him to do? How did you feel when that happened? How did you respond?
6. *Read Mark 11:1-11; Zechariah 9:9; Mark 14:3-9.* When the crowds realized that what Jesus was about was different than what they wanted Him to be about, they turned on Him. Has your mind ever changed about Jesus because He didn’t act how you expected? What brought you back (if you’re not still there)?
7. How do you respond when God acts on His terms and not yours?
8. Why do people today fail to realize that Jesus is God? How would you share Christ with someone who struggles with believing Jesus is the only way to God? What misunderstandings might they have about the gospel? About Jesus? What are your favorite verses to share regarding the claims of Christ?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. *Read John 1:1-5, 12-14.* Who is the Word? What is the relationship between the Word and God? What did the Word do? Who did Jesus claim to be? What did he say that he came to do? What was his relationship with the Father? What is the benefit of believing the Word? Whose glory did the Word reveal?
2. *Read John 10:30-33, 37-38.* What does Jesus mean when he says he is one with the Father? What proof does he give? Why did Jesus’ claims enrage the Jews? Who today is offended by this claim?
3. *Read John 14:6-11.* How does Jesus describe himself? What one way did Jesus say we could come to the Father? How did Jesus characterize his relationship with the Father? How can we know what Father God is like?
4. *Read Philippians 2:5-9.* Who and where was Christ before he became a man? How did Jesus limit himself? For what purpose did he come? In the end, who will bow their knee and confess that Jesus is Lord?
5. *Read Colossians 1:15-20.* What is Christ’s relationship to God? To Creation? To the church? What is the significance of Jesus’ resurrection? What did God achieve through the work of His Son? What does the work of Christ on your behalf mean to you?
6. *Read Hebrews 1:1-3.* How did God speak to people in the past? How does He speak to us today? How is Jesus different from other prophets? What does Jesus reveal to us about the nature of God? What did Jesus

do after completing his ministry on earth? What difference should it make to us that Jesus is heir of all things and the creator of the world?

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you think people today have any clearer picture of who Jesus is than did the people in His day? How do you think Jesus feels about the confusing portrait presented in today's church or by some individuals?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What will you do to be prepare yourself to share who Jesus is? (Example: study the FOLLOWING verses below to become better equipped to share your faith). Matthew 10:32-33; 27:54; Mark 6:2-3; John 8:46, 58; 14:6-1; 16:15-16; 18:38-39; Acts 3:15-16; Romans 2:11-16.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:13-15

NEW THRU 30 READING PLAN

Day	Date	Bible
Sunday	9/25	Grace Day
Monday	9/26	John 1:1-10:42
Tuesday	9/27	John 11:1-21:25
Wednesday	9/28	2 Timothy, 1, John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
Thursday	9/29	Revelation 1:1-11:19
Friday	9/30	Revelation 12:1-22:21

