



Small Group Study Guide

Sermon: WHO IS JESUS?

Betrayed, Bullied and Abused

March 15, 2026 | CrossPointe Church

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INTRODUCTION

Luke 22:63–71 examines the question “Who is Jesus?” by listening to Jesus’ own claims under brutal trial—showing He identified Himself as the Christ, the Son of Man, and the Son of God—calling CrossPointers to recognize the life-changing implications of that claim for faith, justice, and how we treat the abused and vulnerable.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 22:63–65 — **The abuse and mockery of Jesus:** He is blindfolded, beaten, and blasphemed; a picture of His suffering and solidarity with victims of violence and shame.

Luke 22:66–68 — **Jesus is the Christ:** The council asks if He is the Messiah; Jesus’ refusal to hide His identity shows the clarity and cost of His claim.

Luke 22:69 — **Jesus is the Son of Man:** Jesus invokes Daniel 7’s throne-and-clouds imagery, claiming the heavenly authority and kingdom promised in Scripture.

Luke 22:70–71 — **Jesus is the Son of God:** His words are understood as a divine claim; the council convicts Him for it—demonstrating that His identity, not His ethics, caused His execution.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 22:63–65. Have you ever felt unseen, humiliated, or powerless like the blindfolded Jesus? How does it help to know Jesus experienced similar pain?

Follow-up:

- How does **Hebrews 4:14–16** and **Psalms 34:18** reinforce the point about Jesus’ sympathy? (read both passages aloud)
 - How should a church community respond when someone shares they’ve been hurt (practically, emotionally, spiritually)? What barriers keep victims from speaking, and what steps can CrossPointe (leaders and members) take to remove them?
 - Personal application: name one practical way you or this group can offer presence, protection, or advocacy for someone currently experiencing bullying or abuse this week.
2. In Luke 22:66–68 Jesus says, *“If I tell you, you will not believe.”* Why might Jesus answer this way, and what does it reveal about human resistance to truth?
 3. PT said, *“If Jesus were lying, He would be lying in a way that benefited Himself.”* How does the fact that Jesus repeatedly claimed to be God (though those claims led directly to His suffering and death) affect how believable His claims are?

Follow-up:

- Why would most people lie about something that would get them killed? What motives normally drive false claims, and do any of those apply to Jesus? (Consider Luke 22:63–71.)
- If Jesus stood to gain nothing — and instead lost everything — by claiming deity, does that strengthen the argument that He was telling the truth? Why or why not?

4. PT warned against religious cover-ups to protect reputation and said, *“Faith that humbles and heals never hides harm.”* How should a church practically respond when abuse is reported? What steps would your small group suggest we take to ensure safety and accountability? Would you share your steps with PT by emailing them to him? pt@crosspointe.church

Follow-up:

- How should a church protect both the vulnerable and the rights of someone who is accused? What fair, transparent steps guard against false or retaliatory accusations while still taking reports seriously? Consider this side of the issue as you come up with steps.
5. Reflect on John 14:6 and PT’s challenge: *“If you remain the judge of Jesus, you stand in the position of those who crucified Him.”* Do you evaluate Jesus the way you evaluate ideas or people — by your preferences, convenience, cultural assumptions, or what fits your lifestyle — instead of letting His claims shape your decisions and allegiance.

Examples:

- Rejecting Jesus’ exclusive claims (e.g., John 14:6) because they feel politically or socially inconvenient, rather than wrestling with their truth.
 - Accepting Jesus’ moral teaching but denying His identity as Lord because you want religion to be merely “helpful” and not authoritative over your life.
 - Picking which commands you’ll follow (e.g., generosity, sexual ethics, forgiveness) based on what’s easiest or most popular, not on submission to Christ’s rule.
 - Treating faith as a private preference or “spiritual but not religious” option, rather than a surrendered trust that reshapes work, relationships, and priorities.
6. PT urged practical responses to bullying (document, report, walk with the targeted). Which of those steps can you commit to personally or as a group this week? Can you come up with at least 3 steps adults MUST take when a child or student tell us they are being bullied? Don’t Google it! Speak from your heart. What do you think and then...
- When you post your group picture this week, would you share those steps on the post with the Topic: WHAT ADULTS MUST DO WHEN A CHILD/STUDENT SAYS THEY ARE BEING BULLIED...

PASTOR’S BEST QUOTES

- *“If Jesus is who He claimed to be—Lord of all, God in human flesh—then every choice you make about work, love, justice, sexuality, and meaning is touched by that reality.”*
- *“Cruelty is never the mark of strength; it is the imprint of an old wound — it shatters trust, silences the vulnerable, and leaves people carrying shame they didn’t earn.” “You can know the Bible and not know Jesus.”*

CLOSING PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus Christ, Son of Man, and Son of God—who loved us enough to bear pain we could not bear and to speak truth we could not ignore. Help us to answer the question “Who is Jesus?” with lives that submit to His Lordship. Strengthen every person here to grow in faith with their small group, and have boldness to invite others to Sunday services. Protect the vulnerable among us, give wisdom to our leaders, and give us courage to act with love and justice. Send Your Spirit to lead each of us into deeper trust and faithful obedience. In Jesus’ name, amen.

PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders) and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!