

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

**"JESUS IS..." | LUKE 11:14-32 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL**

## **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

***In your opinion, what's a good way to assess who a person is?***

### ***"Jesus is The Finger of God and the Stronger One" (Luke 11: 14-20)***

Jesus is accused of getting his power from Satan to get rid of demons, and He defends himself with logic and goes on to say He is overpowering Satan. **Why do people doubt Jesus and His power when He sets others free?**

### ***"Jesus is the Gap Filler" (Luke 11: 21-23)***

Jesus points out that after someone is set free from Satan, they need to be filled, not just cleaned. **In what ways do people try to clean up their own lives? How is that different from letting Jesus fill their lives?**

### ***"Jesus is the Spiritual Family Blessor" (Luke 11: 27-28)***

Jesus turns a praise of his mom into a reminder that you don't have to have special connections to be blessed, just be obedient. **How is that encouraging? How is that challenging?**

### ***"Jesus is the Greater Prophet and King" (Luke 11: 29-32)***

Jesus points out that non-Jews repented from Jonah and sought Solomon's wisdom, but now Jews were doubting Jesus who is greater than both of those men. **In what ways do people fail to appreciate Jesus today?**

## **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Jesus' actions created different responses in the crowd: some doubted him, others wanted entertaining signs, and others were in awe. **How have you been responding to Jesus lately? Instead of cleaning up yourself, how can you let Jesus fill you this week?**

## Jesus is ...

### I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-7 AP: OP Unity. CK. DC&GS. REAL. Sun Prayer.

### II. Slide8 Intro: Jesus is ...

A. Recap where we left off: They saw/heard Jesus pray. They asked *how to do it*. They were taught a model/pattern. Jesus ended w/the most important prayer point (*HS vs.13*)

1. We learned we should pray for *material things, health, & finances*, but this isn't *the highest form* of praying. We **must graduate to the highest level** of praying/asking for the blessings of *the Spirit of God* that result in Christian **character & conduct** that **glorify the Lord**.

2. **Illust:** Did you know that if you have a **milk cow** it **isn't** more considerate to *milk her less*. The only thing that happens is *the less that is demanded of her, the less milk she provides*. The more milk you **take** the more that is **produced**.

a) It is also true of *the Christian life!* If you only *turn to God* when in need, you'll miss the *real joy* that flows from *a daily infilling of His Spirit*.

B. **Prayer:** (my sp. b-day) *Sp of the Living God fall afresh on us!*

C. My first car I bought "*by myself*" was a used 1971 Karmann Ghia Convertible.

It had a beautiful **red fleck paint**, black top, beautiful. Got it home & a friend who knew a lot more about cars knocked on the fenders, **bondo!** (filler putty). Then later to find out the whole under side had **body-rot corrosion** (from Michigan, *salt the roads*). For my next cars I always had *my cousin Jack* look at them 1st. Jack was a mechanic, who actually knew how to **assess** cars.

1. Slide9 This story we are about to read the people do not have an **accurate assessment** of **who Jesus is**. They didn't know what they were talking about, **and so** they came up with an **inaccurate assessment**.

2. **Who is Jesus?** (middle-rt Brad Pitt?)

### III. Slide10a JESUS is THE FINGER OF GOD (14-20) READ

- A. This is the shortest miracle account in all the gospels (14).
1. It's brevity is a clue that it's **not about the miracle itself**, but their **response** to the miracle or their **assessment** of Jesus.
- B. The healing of a demon possessed man elicits **mixed responses, different assessments** of Jesus. (open hostility & even worse, attempted neutrality)
- C. Slide10b 2 Attacks on Jesus:
1. **1st Attack.** (*you get your power from Satan*). Van Halens song, *Running with the devil* comes to mind. You're in *collusion w/the devil*. [answered in vs.17-26]
  2. **2nd Attack.** (*we want a sign from you*). [answered down in vs.29-32]
- D. A false statement of the secret of His power. *Beelzebub* (Lord of flies). *Beelzebub* (Lord of house)
1. Jesus shows how **illogical** it would be for Satan to fight against himself.
    - a) A **house divided** is like, *cutting the branch you're sitting on, or biting the hand that feeds you.*
    - b) Satan **does** have a kingdom & Jesus has **invaded** it & **conquered** it.
    - c) Eph.2:2 *You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil - the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.* NLT
- E. Slide11 Re-read 20 > *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
1. Matthew's account says, **by the Spirit of God** instead of finger (Mt.12:28).
  2. By using this **synonymous term**, Jesus says *He's in league w/the HS of God*

### IV. Slide12a JESUS is THE STRONGER ONE (21-23) READ

- A. We have to remember the greatest opponent to God's people is **not any other nation, or any political party, or ideology**, it is **Satan**, who is on his last *Hoorah*, before he is cast into utter darkness forever.
- B. This is **strong vs. Stronger** - Jesus' showing **complete mastery** over satan.

1. He said in 10:18 *I saw satan fall like lightning from heaven*. The moral of the story is that Jesus is overthrowing Satan and making a people for **Slide12b** Himself. Every time a believer gets saved we sing, *Hell lost another one!* Jesus is constantly pushing back the jurisdiction of Satan, and we see clearly *the fight is "fixed"* (better than WWF). *The battle is over, we are just watching it play out.*
  2. *This is a spiritual battle.* Beloved, we know *The Stronger One* today!
  3. Jesus' victory over Satan offers a life *freed from* the powerful grip of evil.
- C. (23) More dangerous than *open hostility* is *attempted neutrality*.
1. **Slide13** You can receive Christ, or reject Him, but you can't *ignore Him!*

## V. **Slide14a JESUS is THE GAP FILLER (HS) (24-26) READ**

- A. (said in the positive) Jesus *protects* those He gathers from demonic assault.
- B. Again remember, Jesus just cast a demon out of a man (14). *So part way is no way.*
1. Sometimes Jewish exorcists could cast out a demon but it must be **replaced** with a *more powerful source* of strength.
  2. Some people will try to *live moral lives* by *sweeping and putting their life in order*, tidying it up.
  3. **Slide14b** If you've been on *underground subways* you know the sign *Mind The Gap* (gap between train/platform) but we shouldn't just mind the gap, we must *fill the gap!* If you don't fill the God-shaped-vacuum, *something else will.*
    - a) See it's not just about being healed from demons but **sealed** from them *by the Holy Spirit*. You need a **new tenant**.
      - (1) It's not about **Reformation** but **Regeneration**. You need a *new nature*.
    - b) **Slide14c** We are all born with a *corrupt nature* (in its *thoughts, affections & will*)
    - c) **But** when we are *reborn* we receive a *new nature*, a *new mind* (or a *new intellectual nature* that is no longer blind to the truth of God).
    - d) We get *new taste, new loves*, no longer *loving* the things that displease God, we now **love** what pleases God. God gave us *His Own Nature*.

C. Please know, an empty life is an *opportunity* for Satan to *move in and take over*.

## VI. Slide 15a JESUS is THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY BLESSER (27,28) READ

A. Here, Jesus recalibrates this women zeal. The kingdom of heaven *isn't* passed down *biologically*, but by *spiritual transformation*.

B. *Oh how happy is Your mom* – Yes she is, but more than that, oh how happy is anyone who hears My Words and puts them into practice. Slide 15b

1. Notice Jesus doesn't put *Mary down*, but simply raises *all believers up*.
2. Mary's best relationship *isn't mother to son*, but *sinner to Savior* (one is temporal, one is eternal). Ps: I didn't call Mary a sinner, *she did!* She said, *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior*. Lk.1:47

## VII. Slide 16a JESUS is THE GREATER PROPHET & KING (29-32) READ

A. Now He answers vs. 16 *show us a sign!*

B. Slide 16b THE GREATER PROPHET

C. Greater is in the *neuter*. This is *not* a comparison or contrast of *Jonah and Jesus*, but of the *ministry of Jonah and Jesus*. (His ministry of *prophecy*)

1. How is Jesus is the greater Prophet?

- a) **Jonah** *preached the word* to Nineveh. **Jesus is the Word** to all generations.
- b) **Jonah** *reluctantly preached salvation* to Nineveh. **Jesus is** salvation to *all who believes*.
- c) **Jonah** *hated Nineveh* because of how wicked they were. **But Jesus loves us** *even though* he knows everything about us.

2. **Jesus is the greater Prophet.**

- a) Side note: **Nineveh** heard *the bad news* and repented (*yet 40 days in Nineveh shall be overthrown*). **This generation** heard (& saw) *the Good News* and wouldn't. [*privilege always brings about responsibility*]

3. **The Good News this morning:** You can *know Jesus the greater Prophet* if you are willing to *repent and believe* in *the final sign*.

## D. Slide 16c THE GREATER KING

E. Again the comparison and contrast of *his office of Kingship*.

1. How is Jesus is the greater King?

2. Jesus is the Wealthier King.

a) Ps.50:10-12 *For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it.*

b) Who created all of creation? Jesus! Jn.1:3 *God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.*

3. Jesus is the Wiser King.

a) He is not just *full of* wisdom, He **is** the wisdom of God.

b) He is the sovereign king. *On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of all kings and Lord of all lords.* Rev.19:16

F. Good news this morn, you can be a citizen of the kingdom of *The Greater King*.

G. What is your **assessment** of who Jesus is? (Is Jesus *despised* in your heart?

Is He someone who needs to constantly *prove* Himself to you? Is He your **Lord**?

Have you chosen a side, **or** are you playing the *neutrality* game?)

H. Remember the **milk cow** in the beginning? *Milk away!*

1. The Holy Spirit loves providing all you need **for life & godliness**.

a) Be Careful, He is intensely sensitive against sin (you can grieve Him). **Know**, every time we read our bible it's possible to have this *Divine Person*, the author of the book, to **interpret** it to us & to **teach us** its **real & innermost meaning**.

I. Communion: Bread - Cup -

J. Keywords: Jesus, Holy Spirit.