
CHRISTOLOGY

THE STUDY OF JESU

Training the next generation

For small groups, Sunday school, mentoring



By Rev. Bob Schneider

These studies are for the glory of our wonderful God...I can hardly wait to be in His presence!

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

"Bob Schneider has blessed the church with his studies in theology. I am quite impressed by their clarity, simplicity, and depth! It takes a good teacher who knows his stuff to make complicated ideas clear and he has accomplished this in his study. Well done!" **Dr. Richard Bargas - President of IFCA, International.**

"These studies will cause believers to catapult forward because they learn to think and wrestle with the text. All believers need this kind of theological foundation for their lives." **Paul Seger, Mission Consultant and Former director of Biblical Ministries Worldwide.**

The Bible studies Bob has put together are very well organized and structured. They can be used in a variety of different ministry settings for both teens and adults. The lessons are designed to prompt discussion and interaction with the biblical texts by placing thoughtful discussion questions into each section. Thanks, Bob, for providing such biblical and practical material for our churches. **Pastor Ron Smith - Curtiss Street Bible Fellowship.**

These courses provide a useful framework as a base for a wide variety of Bible studies. Whether it's a quick survey for a new believer or a deeper challenge to a maturing teen, these courses are carefully thought through to help leaders of all skill levels provide a consistent and thorough grasp of each topic. **Brendan Yoder, friend, father of eight, elder in his church, man of God.**

I like how the topics are divided, it makes analysis, discussion, and teaching so much easier. The time flies by so quickly, I just don't want to stop! **Jasmine, a sister in our church.**

I appreciate that the material is well organized and that the Bible texts are the ones I need to study that topic. **Minerva leads ladies' studies in our church.**

Bible translations - The main Bible used in this study is the New American Standard Bible. At times the New Living Translation is used, which often does an excellent job of making the topic clearer. This has been especially helpful for the teens in our church who use these studies.

I'm so very grateful for the help of my wife, **Karon**. She has encouraged me, served as my editor and also is translating these studies into Spanish. My good friends **Brendan Yoder and Pastor Ron Smith** have been instrumental in walking through these studies with me, looking for accuracy and thought flow. Their support has been of immense value! Thank you, men.

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What's unique about this study is that it is centered around the Bible. So, as we look at different passages, take the time to think through each phrase of each verse. **WHAT IS THIS VERSE TEACHING?** Take time to meditate on God's Word.

Also, there are times when I only include one verse. You may need to look up that verse in your Bible in order to understand the context.

Read what others have to say about these themes. Check out excellent study Bibles and websites.

- GotQuestions.org. / Biblehub.com / PreceptAustin.org / FOI.ORG - Friends of Israel
- E-sword and Olive Tree are free Bible programs.

Christology - The study of Jesus.

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Before time began, before the stars or the earth existed, before God created space, there was God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They have existed for trillions and trillions and trillions of years. They have no beginning. Can you comprehend that? No number can record the eternity of our God. This is so mind-boggling that we can believe it, but we will never understand it.

What did God do during all of that time? That's how we think because we were made "to do things." But God was never bored, ever. In fact, there was and is great joy and love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They have such a profound love and respect for one another. Have you ever thought about how much the Father loves the Son? There is a great and immeasurable love between them. And at some point, God chose to create this universe, to

create the angels, to create us. The great love which the Father has for the Son has now also been placed on us. God loves man beyond measure. How do we know that? Jesus died for us.

In this creation alone, God is allowing the angels and mankind to choose between good and evil. Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels chose evil, and man chose evil. God was not responsible for this. He did not desire it, but He allowed it, and God chose to use our sin to show how horrible evil is. Evil, sin, death, wickedness--it is wretched! It has brought such grief, pain and tears to our lives.

How has God dealt with sin, death, and evil? The answer is Jesus. John says that Jesus came to **destroy the works of the devil, and He also came to reveal God to us.** Jesus teaches us and shows us what God is like.

This study is about Jesus, our Lord, and Savior. As you come to understand Jesus, you will come to love and admire Him. You can't help but worship Him because He is so wonderful. Let's talk about Jesus.

Review: There are many reasons why Jesus came to this earth. What are the two that we just mentioned?

1. Jesus is God. He has always been God.

1.1. Jesus Himself claimed to be God.

1.1.1. John 5

John 5 is a great passage that teaches us about the deity of Christ. Did Jesus ever claim to be God? Let's read this passage in John and then we'll study it and find some answers.

John 5:15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

John 5:16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." 18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- Why were they persecuting Jesus?
- In what sense is the Father working today? (And obviously, the Father is not breaking the Sabbath.)
- The Father was working on the Sabbath. Why does that give Jesus the right to "work" on the Sabbath?
- If Jesus has the right to work on the Sabbath, just like His Father does, what is Jesus saying about Himself and His relationship with the Father? And why does saying this make Him equal to God?
- To say that He is Lord of the Sabbath says that He is God. He is continuing the creative act of God. Here Jesus shows us that He is equal to God **in His person**.
- Jesus did not correct the Jews when they said He was making Himself equal with God. What does that tell you about Jesus?

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- Jesus didn't just do His own thing. What did He do?
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says, "Jesus explained that He is not independent of or in opposition to the Father. His activity is not self-initiated. The Father directs and has sent the Son. The Son's activity imitates the Father, and the Two always work together."

- Only someone as great as the Father could do the Father's works. What works does the Son do that the Father also does? (That's what the following verses tell us.)

20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

- What does this verse teach us?
- What things did Jesus do in the past, and what will He do in the future that only God can do?

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- What power does Jesus have that only God has?
- How does this prove He is God?

22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.

- What will Jesus do that even the Father won't do?
- Jesus is the judge of ALL mankind. How does this show that He is God? Notice how this is linked to verse 23.
- His works show that Jesus is equal to the Father.

23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- You would never honor an angel in the way that you honor God.
- How does this show that Jesus is God?

Review. In the verses above, Jesus does not say: "I am God." Instead, He speaks of the things which prove He is God. Take a moment now and make a short list of the things Jesus said that show He is God.

1.1.2. Jesus claims to be the great I AM.

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me,

‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “ I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

- What is this passage teaching us?
- What is the name that God gives Himself? What does this name mean?
- When we speak of God, we call Him Jehovah, but when God speaks of Himself, He says, I AM. I AM means that God self exists. God is life. He gives life, and He can never die. He is eternal, the One who is always alive. This is the title that Jesus used for Himself.
- An angel could say: "Before Abraham was, I was." But an angel could not say: "Before Abraham was, I am." Only God can say, "I AM."
- As I write this, my father is 89 years old. Would it be correct for my dad to say, "when you were born, I am?" Why couldn't a man or an angel say, "I am?"

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

- The English text adds *He*, in italics. The Greek text simply says I AM.
- What is Jesus saying here?
- What would happen to them if they did not believe Jesus is the Great I AM?

John 8:28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am (He), and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

- Think back to the events at the crucifixion. What things happened at the crucifixion which showed that Jesus is God, the great I AM?

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

- What is this passage teaching us?
- Abraham lived approximately 1,400 years before Jesus.
- Why would they want to stone Jesus for saying this? What blasphemy had He committed?

John 10:30 I and the Father are one.” 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” 33 The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”

- What is this passage teaching us?
- First of all, how did the Jews understand Jesus' words, "I and the Father are one?"
- Why does Jesus' statement, "I and the Father are one," make Him God?
- Did Jesus ever correct them by saying, "No, no, you don't understand?"
- Bible Knowledge Commentary: "When Jesus said, I and the Father are one, He was not affirming that He and the Father are the same Person. The Son and the Father are two Persons in the Trinity. This is confirmed here by the fact that the word "one" is neuter. Instead, He was saying that they have the closest possible unity of purpose. Jesus' will is identical to the Father's regarding the salvation of His sheep. And yet absolute identity of wills involves identity of nature. Jesus and the Father are one in will (and also in nature for both are God; cf. 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9)."
- Of the previous verses, is there one you don't understand?
- In your opinion, which one is the clearest?

1.1.3. Other passages.

Let's look at another passage where Jesus claims to be God.

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; 66 what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!"

- What does this passage teach us?

Leviticus 24:16 Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

- What did Jesus say that for them was blasphemous?
- As you ponder this last section, why do you think Jesus is God?

- Did Jesus ever declare that He is God?
- What does it say about our sin that only God Himself could pay for it?
- What should someone's attitude be towards Jesus because He died for us on the cross?

Quiz:

- Why does Jesus call Himself, I AM? What does He mean by that?
- Why can't an angel claim to be I AM?
- Has any other godly man in the history of the world even come close to saying He is God?
- If God were to become a man, what would you expect of Him?
 - * What would He be like and how would He act?
 - * What things would He do that only God can do?

A HEART LIKE KING DAVID

David had his failures, but he was a man after God's own heart and probably the godliest king to ever walk the planet. He often praised the Lord, even amidst hardship, which is an excellent example for us to follow. That is why, after each section, you will find a point called **A heart like King David**, which will encourage you to praise the Lord.

Jesus Himself claimed to be God; it was not something that His disciples invented. As you think over these previous verses, why do you praise the Lord?

1.2. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- What do these verses teach us?
- What does a word do? Why does Jesus call Himself the Word?
- How does verse one teach us that Jesus existed before the creation?

- If Jesus was with God and was God, what does that tell us about the Trinity?
- Do you see how John says the same thing twice in verse 3?
- According to verse 3, why could Jesus not have been created?
- Verse 3 is an incredibly strong witness to the deity of Christ. You can't be the Creator of all when you yourself are created.
- And if Jesus had been created, then surely the Bible would clearly explain it, but we find nothing concerning His creation. If He were created, then Jesus would reject any claim to be like the Father, and He would not allow others to worship Him.

Hebrews 1:8 But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. 9 "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

- What is this passage teaching us?
- In verses 8-9, what does the Father call Jesus?
- If Jesus were not Almighty God, how would the Bible have made that known to us?
- Is there any passage in the Bible that tells us when or how Jesus was created?

The following verses list 9 magnificent truths about Jesus. Highlight or underline each one and then ask the question, could this attribute describe Jesus if He were not God? It would also be good to ask the question, "If Jesus had been created, would the author have said these things?"

By the way, when you ask questions about a passage, it creates a reminder in your memory. If you hear someone teaching on this subject, those questions will come to mind, and you will learn more.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON,

TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?

6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.” 7 And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.”

8 But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. 9 “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.”

The above verses are powerful for understanding clearly that Jesus is Jehovah, the Lord God Almighty. Let's look at some more Bible verses.

Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- What does verse 3 tell us about Jesus' flesh, His humanity?
- What does verse 4 tell us about His deity?
- Notice that the flesh, the human side of Jesus, was born, but the divine side was declared, not created or born.
- The word declared in Greek is similar to our word horizon. The horizon clearly marks the difference between sky and land. The resurrection clearly shows that Jesus is God. God the Father would not have raised Jesus from the dead if He were an imposter.
- How does this passage clearly show us that Jesus is God?

Let's look at some more passages which tell us that Jesus is God.

Romans 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (This translation follows the Greek text perfectly.)

- How does this verse tell us that Jesus is God?

Matthew 1:23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

- How does this verse teach us that Jesus is God?

- Why could no created being be called Immanuel?

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

- In the Greek text, Thomas uses the article to emphasize that Jesus is the Lord, the God. The Greet text says, "The Lord of me, the God of me." Ὁ κύριός μου καὶ ὁ θεός μου. You cannot state more clearly that someone is God.
- Both believers and unbelievers in the Latin culture say "Oh my God" all of the time. A Jew would never say that! Why do you think that Thomas is saying it?

Philippians 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.

- What does this verse teach us?
- Before coming to earth, Jesus existed in the form of God. What does that mean?
- Can any created thing exist in the form of God?
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this: "This word (form) stresses the inner essence or reality of that with which it is associated." So what does it mean--He existed in the form of God?
- The word grasped has the idea of something which is stolen. A person has to hide stolen property, or maybe file off the serial number or change the license plate, but Jesus' position as God was clearly His. He didn't have to worry about getting it back. He could "hide" His deity in a human body and then later take back His position of glory when He returned to heaven.
- Please take a moment and reread the verse. Do you understand it better now?

Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

- What is the fullness of deity?
- How do we see that Jesus is God?
- Notice that the word "dwells" is in the present tense, and observe that this was written years after Jesus returned to heaven. Does Jesus currently have a human body? What does this verse say?

2 Peter 1:1 To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Peter emphasizes that Jesus is THE God by using the article. o theos - ὁ θεός. It doesn't sound good in English but it works perfectly in Greek. "the God our and Savior, Jesus Christ."
- What is this passage teaching us about the deity of Christ?
- Once again, if Jesus were not God Almighty, then the Bible would make that clear. It would be blasphemous to call Jesus God if He were not.

Revelation 17:14 These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

- What phrase teaches that Jesus is God?

Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

- What does Jesus mean when He says these things about Himself?
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says, "Christ is before all Creation and He will continue to exist after the present creation is destroyed. He is the Eternal One."

Do you have any doubts about the deity of Jesus, any questions?

Name one passage that clearly states that Jesus is God.

Many cults teach that Jesus is not God. This leads us to ask the following essential questions:

- Do we ever find Jesus denying his deity or telling people not to worship Him?
- Where does the Bible clearly teach that the Son of God was created?
- Why would Jesus even say things that made people think He was God unless He were God?
- Where does the Bible clearly teach us that Jesus is not God?

So, what we find is that Jesus Himself claimed to be God. Plus, we have passages that clearly state that Jesus is God. Let's look at some other reasons which tell us that Jesus must be God.

1.3. Jesus has abilities or attributes that only God has and will not share with anyone else.

Jesus is self-existent.

John 5:25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.

- Ellicott's Commentary for English readers says this: "The Son has spoken of the dead hearing His voice and living, but this giving of life to others can only be by one who has in himself an original source of life. This the Father has, and this the Son also has. To the Son in His pre-existent state, it was natural, as being equal with the Father. To the Son who had emptied Himself of the exercise of the attributes which constituted the glory of that state it was part of the Father's gift by which He exalted Him exceedingly, and gave Him the name which is above every name. It was, then, a gift in time to One who had possessed it before all time."
- What are these verses teaching us?
- How does this verse teach us that Jesus is God?
- The angels don't die because God keeps them alive. Why can't God die?
- Can any created being give life to others or raise the dead?

Jesus is immutable; He can never change.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- How does it show that Jesus is God?

Jesus is omnipresent. He is everywhere present.

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- How does this verse show us that Jesus is omnipresent?
- How should it encourage us?

Jesus is omniscient - He knows everything.

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- How does this verse show us that Jesus is omniscient?

Review:

- Do you have any questions?

- What are four divine abilities or attributes which show that Jesus is God?

So far, we've found that:

- * Jesus claimed to be God.
- * The Bible clearly says that He is God.
- * He has attributes that only belong to God, and now we will look at the works of Jesus.

1.4. Jesus does things that only God can do.

He created the world.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- How does this prove that Jesus is God?

He created the world and holds it together.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this: "Like the head of a sovereign imprinted on a coin, so Christ is "the exact representation of [the Father's] being." As Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." It goes on to say: "The word image in this verse means the very substance or essential embodiment of something or someone."

*What does it mean that Jesus is the image of God? Could an angel be the image of God?

- If Jesus were the first thing God created, Paul would have used a different word than firstborn.

- Take a moment and look at the context. Why is Jesus called the firstborn?

- Technically, my son Daniel is my firstborn, but his older sister Elyssa was born first. Isaac was Abraham's firstborn, but Ishmael was older than Isaac. Firstborn here refers to a place of eminence. It is not speaking of Jesus being born or about having a beginning. But rather, He is the ruler of all creation, the leader of the family, so to speak. Once again, look at the verse.

Why does it say that Jesus is the firstborn of all creation, the leader or ruler of all creation? Jesus created the world, and He holds the world together. Only God can do that. Only God creates and sustains. What else does Jesus do?

Jesus forgives sins.

Mark 2:5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

- So, let's think this through. They bring this paralytic to Jesus so that Jesus will heal him. But instead, Jesus says out loud, "your sins are forgiven."
- First of all, why does He say it out loud? Whom is He trying to impact? What is Jesus trying to teach them?
- How do the scribes respond?

8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?"

- So, first of all, Jesus verbally forgives this man as a way of teaching the scribes. He then knows what they are thinking and responds to their thoughts. What does this tell you about Jesus?
- What should the scribes have done? How should they have responded to Jesus, especially after seeing Him heal this man?

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'?

- Why is it easier to heal him than to forgive him?

10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic,

- What does this tell you about Jesus?
- Can an angel or any other creature forgive our sins against God?

11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

- On a scale of 1-10, how strongly does this story argue or prove that Jesus is God?
- How do the people respond?

He receives worship from angels and man.

Hebrews 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

John 9:38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

Revelation 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

- When the people of Iconium think that Paul is a god and try to bring sacrifices to him, he rips his clothes and stops them. Why does Jesus allow people to worship Him?
- Satan wanted Jesus to worship him. Why didn't Jesus do it?
- What does this attribute tell us about Jesus?

He gives life to the dead and performs the final judgment.

John 5:21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- Since we've been talking about worship, notice that the same honor is given to Jesus as is given to the Father. We just read in Isaiah that God will not give His glory to another.
- How do these verses show us that Jesus is God?

We've just finished looking at the works of Jesus. We've mentioned five works that Jesus does that show that He is God. Without looking, try to say them from memory. Let's try another memory adventure. What four reasons we've seen so far show that Jesus is God Almighty?

A heart like King David.

- How long have you been saved?
- As you have come to know Jesus and walk with Jesus throughout this time, why do you worship, honor and adore Jesus Christ?

- What other things has He done for you besides saving your soul forever and ever and taking you to the most beautiful, wonderful place a person could ever live?

Things to think about.

Satan wants to be God. Has an angel or any other creature ever claimed to be God?

- * Jesus claimed to be God.

Does God's Word say that an angel or any other creature is God Almighty?

- * It says that Jesus is God.

Can an angel or any other creature create life or stay alive by their own power?

- * Jesus can.

Can they forgive sins?

- * Jesus forgives sins.

Did angels or any other holy created thing accept worship?

- * Jesus freely accepted worship.

Can an angel give life to the dead?

- * Jesus does.

What does this tell you about Jesus?

1.5. Jesus calls Himself the same things God calls Himself in the Old Testament.

The following comes from GotQuestions.org

God in the Old Testament

- I AM (Exodus 3:14–15; Isaiah 48:12)
- The Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
- The Light (Psalm 27:1)

The Doctrine of God

Jesus' Reference to Himself

- I AM (John 8:58)
- The Shepherd (John 10:11)
- The Light (John 8:12)
- The Rock (Matthew 7:24)
- Ruler of all (Matthew 28:18)
- Judge of all (John 5:22)
- The Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1)

- The Rock (Psalm 18:2)
- Ruler of all (Isaiah 9:6)
- Judge of all nations (Joel 3:12)
- The Bridegroom (Isaiah 62:5; Hosea 2:16)
- God's Word never passes away (Isaiah 40:8)
- The Sower (Jeremiah 31:27; Ezra 34:9)
- First and the Last (Isaiah 48:12)

Jesus said many things which equated Him with Yahweh: "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9), and "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). He asked God, "Glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" (John 17:5). He said, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working" (John 5:17).

Summary

Jesus claimed to be God. He said God was His Father, and the Jews hated Him for it. They knew He was claiming to be God. Jesus does the works only God can do, such as giving life to the dead and judging all mankind. He is also the Creator of the universe. Jesus receives the same honor and worship as the Father. He often used the title "I AM," which only God Almighty can use. When Jesus said "I AM" to the soldiers, they all fell to the ground.

Many passages teach that Jesus is God, and if Jesus were not God or if He were lesser than God, He would not have let people worship Him. He would have made it abundantly clear that He is not God Almighty. Jesus could not be the Creator of ALL things if He Himself were created. And the Bible nowhere speaks of when Jesus was created. Thomas calls Him My Lord and my God, and the Father calls Him God in Hebrews 1. He is called Immanuel, which means God with us.

Jesus has attributes that only God has. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, self-existent and immutable. Jesus forgives sins, He is the image of God. In the Old Testament, we find names for God, which are then applied to Jesus in the New Testament.

So, if you were to prove to someone that Jesus is God, how would you do it?

Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds. 4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

- How has the Lord been your shepherd?

1.6. Jesus is the Son of God.

There are five individuals or groups of people in the Bible that are specifically called a son of God. Can you name them?

- Adam was the son of God because God created him in His likeness.
- The angels are called sons of God because God created them and they reflect God's likeness. Satan and the demons do not.
- God created the nation of Israel and called Israel His son. Israel was also created for His glory and was supposed to reflect what God was like.
- When we get saved, we are a new creation and we are called the adopted sons of God. We are made in the image of Christ and we share in the divine nature. We too reflect God's image.
- But Jesus wasn't created. He is God, and more than any other group, He shows us what God is like. He is the Son of God. He is divine.

It's difficult for us as humans to understand this concept of "Son of God" because when we think of a son, we think of someone who has been born. My father and mother brought me into existence. However, Jesus is not the Son of God because He was born. "Son of God" refers to his intimate relationship with the Father, a relationship which only God can have with God. To call Jesus the Son of God is to say that He is God.

1.6.1. The title "Son of God" refers to his divine nature. Jesus reflects the true nature of God more than any other son.

The title "Son of God" is used 42 times in the New Testament, when speaking of Jesus. As you study the following passages, what does it mean when someone calls Jesus, the "Son of God"?

John 5:15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." 18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

- Jesus was saying that the Father was not under the laws of the Sabbath, nor was Jesus. In fact, He was the Lord of the Sabbath. What did the Jews clearly understand when Jesus called God His own Father?
- Did Jesus ever correct them, by telling them that they misunderstood?
- We call God our Father, so why was it different for Jesus when He called God His Father? What were the Jews thinking? Look closely at verse 17.

- If a sheep has a baby, it's a baby sheep. That's what the Jews understood from Jesus and Jesus never corrected them. By calling God His Father, He was saying that He is God. More than any other son, Jesus reflects the nature of the Father. He is THE Son of God.
- The words "son of" are also used to describe what a person is like. Judas was called the son of perdition. It identifies him. He was lost to hell forever. The sons of the prophets are prophets themselves. Son of man means you are a human, the son of a man. Ephesians 2 talks about sons of disobedience - i.e., they are disobedient men. Jesus is the Son of God because He is God. He possesses the divine nature. It describes Him. We are also sons of God; we too share the divine nature. But how are we different from Jesus?

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

- Only God receives our worship. How did they worship Jesus? What did they call Him?
- "Truly you are the Son of God." What were they saying about Jesus?

Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

- Why would the child be called the Son of God? Look at the verse.
- What is God telling us about the child when He calls Him the Son of God?

1 John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- When a person believes that Jesus is the Son of God, what is he believing?
- Can a person be saved if they don't believe that Jesus is God?

1 John 5:10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

- What was the testimony that the Father gave about Jesus?

What are they saying about Jesus in the following verses?

Matthew 8:29 And they cried out, saying, “ What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

- What did the demons believe about Jesus?

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” **64** Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see **THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.**”

65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; **66** what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!”

- This is the main reason for Jesus’ death. This is what convicted Him at His trial. What was His “blasphemy”?

Matthew 27:40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

- What should the Son of God be able to do?

Matthew 27:54 Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

- What did they believe about Jesus?

Quiz: What did it mean when Jesus was called the Son of God?

Review: Jesus is the Son of God because He is God. He has God's nature. But Son of God also speaks to His unique relationship with the Father, His intimacy with the Father. Jesus is so identical to the Father, that to see Jesus is to see the Father. Let’s look at that now.

1.6.2. Son of God means that Jesus is unique in his person. He has a close relationship with the Father. No other Son is like Him.

NASB John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

ESV John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

- Only God can fully explain God. Jesus is the perfect explanation of who God is and what He is like.
- What else is this verse teaching us?
- This verse is an excellent explanation of what it means to say that Jesus is the Son of God. He is different from any other son. He is unique. He is God. He is as close to the Father as anyone could ever be.
- So why not call Jesus God's friend, or wife, God's husband, daughter, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, niece, nephew, cousin, grandpa or grandma? What would you say? Take a moment to think through each one of these options.

Review:

- Jesus is THE Son of God. More than any other son, Jesus reflects what the Father is like because He is God. Jesus was clearly saying that He is God, whenever He used the title, Son of God.
- And more than any other son, Jesus has a deep and profound intimacy with the Father. They are one. As such, Jesus is the perfect explanation of the Father. To see Jesus is to see the Father.

Now you've probably noticed that the above two Bible versions are different. The NASB uses the word "begotten" while the ESV uses the word "only." The Greek word is *mono-genes*. Let's take a moment to study it.

1.6.3. Is Jesus the only begotten Son of God or the unique Son of God?

The Greek word used in John 1:18 is *mono-genes*, *μονογενής*. John is the only one to use this term for Jesus and we find it in John 1:14, 18, 3:16, 3:18 and 1 John 4:9.

Mono-genes. Mono means only, and genes means in its class, kind, or stock. The idea is that Jesus is **unique**, the only child, the only one. And we come to that conclusion for two reasons.

1 - John could have used a very similar word which means born or begotten, but he did not. He chose this word which does not carry the concept of begotten. If you'd like to read more, search for this in the Complete Word Study Bible, an excellent resource.

2 – The other reason we believe that it means unique or only is because of how the word is used in the rest of the New Testament.

Let's study the other times that this word is used in the New Testament.

NASB Luke 7:12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

- What does the word mono-genes mean here?

NASB Luke 8:42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as He went, the crowds were pressing against Him.

- What does the word mono-genes mean here?

NASB Luke 9:38 And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy.

- What does the word mono-genes mean here?

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

ESV Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son.

- How many sons did Abraham have?
- What was the name of Abraham's first son?
- In what sense was Isaac Abraham's only son or unique son?

Isaac was not Abraham's firstborn son. That was Ishmael. Nor was Isaac Abraham's only son since Abraham had more sons later on. But Isaac was Abraham's unique son, his very dear son. There was no other son like Isaac, and that's Jesus. There is no other Son so close to the Father as Jesus. He is unique. When you see the words "only begotten," in some Bibles, it would be good to think of Isaac, who was the beloved son of Abraham, the son that was almost put to death. He was Abraham's dear son, his unique son.

As you compare these groups, Adam, Israel, us, and the angels, how is Jesus God's unique son?

Now, I know this has been a bit technical, but I had never really understood this concept, and now I do, so I wanted you to understand it as well. Mono-genes should be translated as only, rather than only begotten.

Let's look at one more point before we talk about Jesus being the Messiah. Jesus is not God's Son because He was born of the Virgin Mary; it's not because He became a man. Jesus has always been the Son of God. He has always had a unique, intimate relationship with the Father; there's no other son like Him. John says that Jesus was in the bosom of the Father; that's very intimate. This is called the eternal Sonship of Jesus Christ.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- As you look at this verse, would it seem that Jesus became the Son when He came to the world, or that He was already the Son?

John 11:27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

So, Jesus is the unique Son of God. There is no other son that is as close to the Father and so like the Father. He is the only one.

Quiz

- What does it mean when Jesus is called the only son or the unique son of God?
- Do you have any thoughts or questions?

1.6.4. “My Son” means that Jesus is the King of Israel.

In 2 Samuel 7, God made a covenant with David. God promised that David's son would sit on David's throne, ruling over David's people. Whenever a descendant of David was crowned as king, he entered into a special relationship with God and became a son of God. Let's read this important covenant that God made with David. This will help us understand how Jesus became the Son of God.

2 Samuel 7:12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

- The descendant is referring to Solomon. Is that clear to you?

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- Solomon built a temple for the Lord, and it was Solomon's throne that was established forever. It's important to know that Jesus is in the family line of both King David and King Solomon.

14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me, when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.

1 Chronicles 28:6 He said to me, ‘Your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him.

- Solomon was a son to God. What does that mean?

- What are these verses teaching us?
- One thing we see is that the Jews must exist forever, the kingdom of Israel will exist forever, and Jesus, a son of David, will rule over Israel forever.

Whenever a son of David was anointed as king of Israel, he became God's son. This doesn't mean he was born again or that he was God. It means God had a special or unique relationship with this man who ruled over David's kingdom. He was ruling for God. So, David's sons, who were anointed to be king, took on a special relationship with God since they were ruling over God's people for God Himself.

It is in this sense alone that Jesus became God's Son. Jesus entered into a special relationship with the Father. This is why we have passages that tell us about God begetting Jesus. It has to do with Jesus' position as King of Israel.

Psalm 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?

- What is this verse teaching?
- Peter quotes this verse in reference to the trial and death of Jesus. It also refers to the future seven years of tribulation.
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this: "Every king anointed by a prophet was a "messiah," an anointed one. If he obeyed God, his rule had the authenticity of God's election and the support of God's power. This often made the plans of other nations futile."

2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

- Can you explain this verse?
- What does it mean, "His Anointed"?

3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

- When does this take place?

7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

- What are these verses teaching us?

- "Today I have begotten you." What does this phrase refer to? When does this take place?
- The Old Testament was translated into Greek. It's interesting to find that the translators did not use the word mono-genes. They actually used the word for giving birth. The same word is used below, in Hebrews 1:5, which is a quote from Psalm 2.
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this: "The decree refers to the Davidic Covenant in which God declared that He would be Father to the king, and the king would be His son. So, when David became king, God described their affiliation as a Father-son relationship. So, the expression "son" took on the meaning of a messianic title. **Today then refers to coronation day.**
- The following passage is going to quote Psalm 2.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

- Does this have to do with Jesus' birth or His position as King of Israel? If you need more clarification, look at verses 8-9 below.

6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." 7 And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

8 But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. 9 "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

- Notice that the context has to do with anointing Jesus as King and his ruling over the kingdom of God. Jesus becoming the Son of God has to do with His position as King of Israel. It has nothing to do with His time before coming to earth or being born.

Okay, this has been deep, but you've done it!

- Son of God means that Jesus is God.
- Son of God means that He has a unique relationship with the Father, unlike any other son.
- And we've studied the Greek word, mono-genes.

- We've seen that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God.
- God entered into a unique relationship with Jesus as the King over God's people.

Quiz: What does it mean when it says: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?

A heart like King David. I love Jesus! It's taken me many years to say this from my heart, but I've come to see what Jesus is like. He is kind and humble, and true. He died for us; He never leaves us, He gives us strength, He cares for us, He helps us grow to become like Him, He has great patience with us, He is always looking to bring something good into our lives, even if it means that we have to go through hard times. He makes us citizens of heaven, and someday He will give us a new body, and we will reign with Him forever with great joy. The joy of your day in heaven will always be to spend time with Jesus because He is so wonderful! You will never tire of being with Jesus. Jesus is immensely powerful, wise, and loving. He created the universe with a word, and we can hardly wait for Jesus to return to this earth and transform it into paradise where people will experience the great love of Jesus and his goodness. Come, Lord Jesus!

Summary

Jesus is called the Son of God for two reasons:

1. Son of God tells us that Jesus is God; it speaks of his divine nature.
2. The title Son of God reflects Jesus' unique relationship with the Father.
3. The Father gave birth to the Son in the sense that Jesus became the King of Israel. It speaks of His Messianic role as the King of Israel.

Meditation. Psalm 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! 2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

- Why do you think that God in His wisdom placed all things under man's feet and not under the angel's dominion?

1.7. Defending the deity of Christ.

Some groups deny the deity of Christ and they have become experts at twisting the Bible. With this kind of a person, it would be good to stick to three things, and simply stand fast as the Bible is very clear about the deity of Christ.

1. The Bible never teaches the creation of the Son of God.

2. John 1:1-3 is very clear. We've already studied this passage. Verse 3 couldn't be any clearer. You can't be the Creator of all things and be created yourself. Notice how John carefully states the same principle twice in verse 3.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

3. Mark 2.

Mark 2:3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. 4 Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.

5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'?"

10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

- Can you explain this passage?

- If Jesus were not God Almighty, then what should He have said?

- How does this passage clearly show that Jesus is Jehovah?

In this last section, we've seen that Jesus Himself claimed to be God. He often used the divine name I AM, to refer to Himself. Other passages tell us that Jesus is God. Jesus has abilities that only God has. He does things that only God can do. He calls Himself names that clearly refer to God. We've also studied what it means to be the Son of God and why that name is used for Jesus. Now let's look at His humanity.

2. Jesus is a man.

It might seem strange that people would even question the humanity of Jesus, but in the first century, many in the church fell into the false teaching that God didn't create anything physical. They taught that God didn't create the universe, God didn't become a man, and our resurrection will not include a physical body. This was heresy. Some even cursed the physical side of Jesus in 1 Corinthians 12. Others said there wouldn't be a resurrection. These false teachers also said that since our body is like a disposable paper cup, we can sin all we want because the physical doesn't count, only the spiritual. These are called doctrines of demons.

John wanted us to know in the book of 1 John that 1 - Jesus had a physical body, that 2 - Jesus is God, and that 3 - God doesn't have even the smallest amount of darkness in Him, so He never sins and doesn't want us to sin. John taught us that if we deny these teachings or give ourselves to sin, we are not children of God.

- What are the three false teachings that John writes to correct in the book of 1 John?
- Can a person be saved if they say that Jesus is not God or that Jesus did not have a flesh and blood body as we do?

So why did Jesus need a human body? It's because God cannot die. Jesus became a man so that as a man, sin could be placed on Him at the cross and so that He could suffer and die. It was only by becoming human that Jesus could 1 - destroy the works of the devil and 2 - show us what God was like.

It's important to know that at this very moment, Jesus has a human body. From now on and forever, Jesus will have a human body.

Quiz: Why did God the Son become human with a flesh and blood body?

2.1. Jesus had a body while on earth.

Sid Litke writes the following.

- A. He had human intellect. His wisdom “increased” humanly (Luke 2:40,52).
- B. He had human emotions.
 - 1. Love (Matt.9:36; John 11:36).
 - 2. Grief (John 11:35; Matt.26:38).
- C. He had a human will.
 - 1. He desired not to suffer (Matt.26:39).
 - 2. He determined to go to Jerusalem to suffer obediently (Luke 9:51).
- D. He had a human body.
 - 1. He was born physically (Matt.1:18; Luke 2:7).
 - 2. He developed as humans do (Luke 2:40,52).

- 3. He had human needs.
 - a. Food (Matt.4:2)
 - b. Drink (John 19:28)
 - c. Sleep (John 4:6)
- E. He is called a man.

Quiz:

- Why do you believe that Jesus had a human body?
- Why did Jesus have to have a human body? Why did He become a man?
- Do you have any questions about Jesus being a man?

2.2. Jesus has a new body now.

Does Jesus have a body now? Absolutely. He has a glorified flesh and bone body. He will forever and ever be a human being with a physical body built for life in heaven.

Luke 24:39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

- Did his new body have flesh and bones?
- Instead of having a mangled body from his death on the cross, Jesus had a new body.
- With his new body, Jesus could appear and disappear. He could walk through walls. He could ascend into heaven. He could also eat.

Acts 10:40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

- What tells you here that Jesus had a body after His resurrection? Underline it.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

- What will our new body be like?
- What are some things that Jesus did in His new body that we will also be able to do?

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. / 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

- Would you be comfortable riding through the sky on a horse in your current body?

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

- Notice that the word dwell is present tense, not past.
- Does Jesus have a physical body right now? What is this verse teaching us?

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins..... 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

- Underline each time the word raised is used.
- What does he mean by a spiritual body? What kind of body do you need to live in heaven?

Jesus had a human body. That's how He could die for us. That's how He can be a son of David and rule as Messiah. He now has a new body, and we will also have a new body at the rapture.

A heart like King David. We were made in God's image, and God is currently transforming us into His image. Someday we will be like Jesus in our person and our body will be like His. As you think about becoming perfectly transformed to be like Jesus someday, why do you praise the Lord?

So far, we've studied the deity and the humanity of Jesus. Now, it's of tremendous importance to know that Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament, or else He would be an imposter. Let's see what the Old Testament teaches us about Jesus.

Meditation: Psalm 103: 6 The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. 14 For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

- As you look at your life, how gracious has God been to you?

3. Prophecies about Jesus from the Old Testament.

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel.

- Part of Paul's gospel is that Jesus is a descendant of David. What would you say? Why did Jesus have to be the son of David? Please take a moment to think about it.

When I first studied this passage, it wasn't clear why Jesus had to be a descendant of David. Why does Paul include it as part of his gospel?

The prophecies of the Old Testament pointed to the Messiah as the single person who would come to heal us, forgive our sins, rule as king, save Israel, and many other things.

Moses told of a great prophet that would arise, and Jesus is this prophet. God never told us about any other man that would arise. He only spoke of the future Messiah. Jesus fulfills all of the prophecies about the coming Messiah. If Jesus were not the Messiah, if He were not the Son of David, then He would be an imposter. There were no prophecies about another person, only about the Messiah, the Son of David.

But Jesus is not an imposter. Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus is the King of Israel, the Savior of the world. You trust Him with the eternal future of your soul. Many Jews have come to Christ due to reading the prophecies about Jesus. Oh, that Israel would open her eyes!

We are going to study six prophecies about Jesus.

1. Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

- What is the prophecy?

- How was this fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 1:18-25?

- No one has ever been born of a virgin--only Jesus. What would it prove to be born of a virgin?

2. Jeremiah 23:5 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

- What are the four prophecies about Jesus?
- Which has been fulfilled by Jesus in Luke 3:23-31, where we see He is the Son of David?

3. Micah 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

- What is the prophecy?
- How was this fulfilled by Jesus in Luke 2:11?

4. Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

- What is the prophecy?
- How was this fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 10:4?

5. Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

- What is the prophecy?
- How was this fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 27:26?

6. Psalm 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. 11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

- What is the prophecy?
- How was this fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 28:5-6?

If you search on the internet, you will find many more prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the One God promised would come and save us from our sins and rule over Israel. He will destroy the devil and his evil works.

Now, before I go on, did you notice how all of these prophecies were fulfilled literally? There really was a virgin who gave birth; Jesus is a literal King, He was born in Bethlehem, betrayed by His friend, He died for our sins, He rose from the dead. Notice how the writers of the New Testament took the Old Testament at face value. This shows us that Jesus really will return to rule this earth for one thousand years. It's what the Bible clearly teaches.

Quiz: Why is it important to know that Jesus is the Son of David?

So, let's say that there were no prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. How would that change things?

Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh.

- What was promised in the Old Testament?
- What does this have to do with Jesus?

Summary:

We've seen that Jesus is God, and we've seen why He is called the Son of God.

We've seen that Jesus is a man. It was only by becoming a man that He could die for us. Jesus has a human body right now, and at the rapture, we will be given new bodies that are like His body.

We've looked at some of the prophecies about Jesus. Jesus meets the qualifications for the Messiah. He fulfills all the prophecies of the Old Testament that point to the Messiah. We know that He is the One that God promised would come. Now let's talk about the incarnation of Jesus.

NLT Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

- What are the green meadows or the peaceful streams where God has led you?

4. The incarnation of Jesus.

Before Jesus came to this earth, God the Son did not have a human body or a human nature. But when God became a man, He took on a second nature. Jesus now has two natures. He is forever God and forever man. He is not two different people in the same body. He is one person, but He has two natures. He is both God and man. Is this new to you? In the past, there was a huge theological debate over this issue.

By becoming a man, it doesn't mean that He became a weaker or lesser version of God. He was and is Almighty God but now with a human body. Let's read from the Moody Handbook of Theology.

“The word incarnation means ‘in flesh’ and denotes the act whereby the eternal Son of God took to Himself an additional nature, humanity, through the virgin birth. The result is that Christ remains forever unblemished deity, which He has had from eternity past; but He also possesses true, sinless humanity in one Person forever (cf. John 1:14; Phil. 2:7-8; I Tim. 3:6)” (Paul P. Enns, Moody Handbook of Theology [Chicago: Moody, 1989] 222).

4.1. Jesus' purpose for becoming a man.

1. Jesus came to take away sin.

One of the major themes of the Bible is this, "the wages of sin is death." In order for God to forgive us, God Himself had to pay for our sins. This created a dilemma because God can't die. But by becoming a man, He could lay down His life for us. As a man, Jesus could die.

On the other hand, Jesus had to be God because only the blood of God could pay for our sins.

Acts 20:28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- This is the only time that the Bible speaks about God's blood.
By becoming a man, what dilemma did Jesus solve?

So, Jesus had to be God and He had to be a man. What does that tell us about God's love for us?

Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

- What are these verses teaching us?

7 “THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’” 8 After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them” (which are offered according to the Law),

- What are these verses teaching us?

9 then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- The blood of sheep and goats can't take away our sin; it can't save us. According to verse 10, what saves us? Underline the exact words that it uses.
- Why does verse 10 say "once for all?"

11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- What is the implication in verse 12--He sat down?
- What is verse 13 talking about?

Quiz:

- Why did Jesus become a man?
- Could Jesus have paid for sin without becoming a man?

So, Jesus came to take away our sin. Let's look at another reason why God became a man.

2. Jesus came to reveal God to man. The best way for a mortal man to learn about God is not by going to heaven to see how God acts in a perfect world but rather to see how God would act if He were a man walking with us here on this earth, surrounded by sin. That's what Jesus did.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

- What is this verse teaching?
- In the Old Testament, they put a man to death because he picked up sticks on the Sabbath, which seems harsh. Is God mean, is He harsh, is He cruel? What does it mean to keep the Sabbath? When Jesus became a man, we saw the full picture of what God is like.
 - * We saw Jesus healing people. What does that tell us about the Father?
 - * We saw Jesus weeping at the graveside of a friend. What does that tell us about the Father?
 - * We saw Jesus' great patience with the disciples. What does that tell us about the Father?
 - * Most of all, we saw Jesus die and come back to life. What does that tell us about the Father?
 - * By the way, the purpose of the Sabbath was to teach us that we need to enter God's rest. We stop working and trust in Christ. Isn't it interesting that now that we have Jesus, our rest, we are no longer required to keep the Sabbath? Hebrews 4 explains it.

So, we've seen that Jesus came to die. Jesus came to show us what the Father was really like. Let's look at another reason for His coming.

3. Jesus came to serve as an example of obedience to God.

1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- Can you give one example of how we walk in Christ's steps?

4. Jesus came to fulfill the Davidic Covenant – He will rule over Israel and the world as a son of David.

Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the

Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

- Underline the six things these verses tell us about Jesus.

5. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

- When Adam fell into sin, what came into this world? Underline the two answers in the following verse.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

- How does Jesus destroy sin and death? Also, what will Jesus do with the devil?
- 1 John 3:8 says: "**the devil has sinned from the beginning**" - what beginning is this talking about? How old was Lucifer when he fell into sin?

6. Jesus came to serve as our high priest before God.

This concept may be new to you, so let's study it. In the Old Testament, a person would go to a priest throughout the year to offer a sacrifice, and once a year, the High priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the temple and offer a sacrifice for the whole nation. The priest and the High Priest both represented these people to God. But neither the sacrifice nor the priest could bring salvation.

Jesus is both the sacrifice and our High Priest. His sacrifice brought salvation, and He also acts as our High Priest. He defends us before the Father just as a lawyer would defend someone in court.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

NTV 1 John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- What two things does Jesus do for us?

- What is the teaching of verse two?
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this: "The thought here is of a defense attorney who takes up the case of his client before a tribunal." They go on to say: "The Cross has indeed propitiated (satisfied) God and has met His righteous demands so thoroughly that His grace and mercy are abundantly available to both saved and unsaved alike."

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- What are these verses teaching us about the present ministry of Jesus as High Priest?

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- What is this verse teaching us?

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

- What is this verse teaching us?

16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- The point is that Jesus understands our weaknesses, and when we go to Him for help, even in our darkest and most sinful moments, He helps us. Through Jesus, because of His once for all sacrifice, we have the boldness to go to the throne of grace. With most kings, you could never go into their presence, but through Jesus, we go right into God's presence, and because He has forgiven us, God will accept us when we come with a humble heart. We need mercy for our sins and grace for obedience and help.
- What does God want you to do when you are weak or struggling, even when your attitude is not exactly right?

Now, take just a moment and look back at our study. What are the six reasons we have mentioned that Jesus became a man?

A heart like King David. Many people have a special love for Jesus, but that's because Jesus became a man, He died for us, and He saves us. But the truth is that the Father and the Holy Spirit are God and are to be equally worshiped and loved. As you look at all the things that Jesus has done for you, why do you praise the Lord?

As we look at the incarnation of Jesus, we've seen various reasons why Jesus became a man. Let's go on to study His birth.

4.2. Jesus' birth was supernatural. He was born of a virgin.

Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

- What is this verse teaching us?

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

- What is this verse teaching us?

33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

- What is this verse teaching us?

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

- What are these verses teaching us?

Why was Jesus born of a virgin? Why didn't Jesus have a human father? What would you say?

1. To fulfill prophecy.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

2. It shows that this child is miraculous. He was born of God. God's hand was in this. This is the only time in the history of the world that a virgin has become pregnant without any human intervention.

3. Some would say that Jesus was born without a human father so that He would be born without sin. Let's be clear on this point. It may be true, but the Bible never directly teaches this

concept. Many, many good theologians believe that Jesus escaped having a sinful human nature by not being born of a human father.

Quiz - Why was Jesus born of a virgin?

King Jesus - If a woman became pregnant, without a doctor, a man, or any other intervention, and then her baby boy grew up, did all kinds of miracles, fulfilled all of the prophecies of the Bible concerning him (about 270), was a wonderful human being, claimed to be God, claimed to be the Savior of the world, died and came back from the dead, would you believe him? Would you trust Him to save you, take care of you, teach you, lead you in your life?

4.3. The Kenosis. Jesus emptied Himself when He became a man.

You've probably never heard the word "kenosis" before. It's a wonderful teaching, and to be honest with you, it's beyond our complete understanding. So, let's study it and see what we can glean from these Scriptures.

The Greek word "kenosis" means to empty, and it is used in Philippians 2. Jesus emptied Himself when He became a man. Let's look at some examples of this concept.

John 17:5 Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- What is this verse teaching?
- When Jesus was here, did He have the same glory as when He was in heaven?
- If a human being were to see Jesus in His glory, this person would die. Jesus' glory would consume him. That's why God told Moses that he could not see God's face or else he would die.
- As Jesus walked around on this earth, was his body emanating huge amounts of light?
- So how do we see here that Jesus emptied himself? How did He change? Could people simply look at Him and realize that He is God?

Luke 2:51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- Before His incarnation, did Jesus obey any man?
- Before His incarnation, did Jesus grow in wisdom?
- What examples do we find here of Jesus emptying Himself?

Philippians 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

- What is this verse teaching?
- What does it mean to exist in the form of God?
- The Greek word "morphe" is translated as form, and it refers to the inner self, a person's character. The inner essence of Jesus is that He is God, while we see in the next verse that Jesus took on the inner essence of a slave or servant.
- The Complete Word Study Bible says this: "No one could be in the form (morphē) of God who was not God.
- So, if you would have seen Jesus before He came to earth, you would have seen God in all of His glory and power. Angels bowed in awe. Moses had to be protected from His glory. But Jesus let that go. He didn't grasp onto it. He freely set that aside because He knew He would one day receive that glory again.
- In His inner self, He was Almighty God, but Jesus didn't grasp onto the visible manifestation of His deity or His life as God. You couldn't tell that Jesus was God just by looking at Him. Nor did Jesus act like God in many ways. He was spit on; He was treated with shame, He was mocked. He obeyed the Father even when He pleaded for the cup to pass from Him. Jesus died for us. This is deep! Honestly, we are privileged that God has allowed us understand it.
- In this section, we are studying how Jesus emptied Himself. Here's a good thought question. Of what did Jesus empty Himself? Of what did He let go?

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

- What is this verse teaching?
- Of what did Jesus empty Himself, and what does that have to do with taking the form of a bond-servant or slave?

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- What is this verse teaching?
- In your opinion, how old was Jesus when He realized He was God and would have to die a cruel death?
- When He realized those things, what do you think His attitude was towards it?
- Of what did Jesus empty Himself?

- Did Jesus stop being God?

The kenosis explained: Jesus did not stop being God, but He set aside the independent use of His divine attributes. Let's read that again. Jesus did not stop being God, but He set aside the independent use of His divine attributes.

He emptied Himself of His visible glory. He emptied Himself of His role in making decisions. He obeyed the Father. Jesus emptied Himself of His wisdom and became a baby like any other human child. He had to learn everything. Here's another example: A woman touched Him, and He said: "Who touched me?" And that's because He set aside His omniscience.

He also had to walk from one place to another because He set aside His omnipresence.

Jesus was thirsty; He got tired, He was weak, and He died, because He set aside His omnipotence.

Jesus didn't act as God in many ways. He only used His divine attributes when He was allowed to do so by the Father. He could have called for a legion of angels to rescue Him, but He did not. He obeyed the Father.

He chose not to use any of these attributes and others. He only did what the Father told him to do or say. And then, when His time on earth was through, He returned to the glory He had before coming to earth. He once again freely uses all of His divine attributes.

He could have picked them up at any time during His time on earth, but He chose not to. He submitted Himself to the Father's will.

Now let's look at a passage that is a bit troublesome for some.

John 14:28 You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

- What does Jesus mean "the Father is greater than I"?

- Before Jesus came to this earth, was the Father greater than Jesus?

- Jesus emptied Himself and became "lesser." He no longer used all of His attributes. He had to grow in knowledge and wisdom; He got tired, and He was obedient to the Father. Jesus asked the Father to "remove this cup from Him," but the Father refused, and Jesus obeyed the Father.

- But it does not mean that Jesus is inferior or a lesser version of God, He simply emptied Himself. Jesus is Almighty God, equal to the Father in all ways. That's why Jesus said this:

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- Jesus emptied Himself. He took on the role of a slave. God the Father was the Master.

Quiz:

- What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself? (Kenosis)
- Name some things that Jesus set aside.
- This is a thought question: Why do you think that Jesus became submissive and set aside the free use of His attributes, His abilities?

We've talked about why Jesus became a man, about His supernatural birth, and about the kenosis. Now let's take a moment and discuss how Jesus had two natures in one person, perfectly joined together.

4.4. The Hypostatic Union.

This means that Jesus is fully God and yet fully man. These two natures dwell in one person. He is not two persons, nor did these natures form a third person. Both natures dwell in one man, one person. These two natures in one man are now inseparable. Jesus will forever be both fully God and fully man. He was not a man before His birth from Mary. God became a man and will forever be a man. It also means that Jesus is not a lesser version of God, nor that He is not fully human.

Ryrie says this: "The union in one person of the divine and human nature of Christ. The union of undiminished deity and perfect humanity forever in one Person is called the doctrine of the hypostatic union (that is, the union of two hypostases or natures), and this is the uniqueness of Jesus Christ." --Ryrie, page 51.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- How do we see here the two natures of Jesus?

How would your life have changed if Jesus had become an angel, not a man?

A heart like King David. Why do you thank and exalt the Lord for becoming a man?

In this last section, we've studied the incarnation of Jesus. We've looked at why Jesus became a man. We saw the prophecies which told us about Jesus. We saw how Jesus emptied Himself,

which is quite a profound concept and we've studied the hypostatic union. It's been a good study. Let's look now at the death of Jesus.

Meditation - Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- Jesus gives us rest for our souls. How have you known the rest that Jesus gives?

5. The death of Jesus.

5.1. Jesus suffered the punishment for our sins, in our place, as a substitute.

Anyone closely associated with the Christian faith believes that Jesus died. But why did Jesus die? There are at least six theories as to why Jesus died, but only one is clearly Biblical.

Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins. The punishment for our sins was placed on Jesus at the cross. He is our substitute. This is called **penal substitution**. It means that Jesus took our pain, He took our place. We do not have to suffer God's wrath for our sins because Jesus took our punishment.

GotQuestions.org says this: "In the simplest possible terms, the biblical doctrine of penal substitution holds that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross takes the place of the punishment we ought to suffer for our sins. As a result, God's justice is satisfied, and those who accept Christ can be forgiven and reconciled to God."

- What is penal substitution?

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

- What does each phrase mean?

* "He bore our sins"

* "In His body"

* "On the cross"

* "So that we might die to sin and live to righteousness"?

* "For by His wounds you were healed"?

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- What is this verse teaching?

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- Ransom means to pay the price and set a person free.

- What is this verse teaching us?

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- What does each phrase mean?

* "He made Him who knew no sin"?

* "to be sin on our behalf"?

* "so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"?

- Did Jesus sin? No, He never sinned. But our sin and our guilt were placed on Him. God treated Him as the most sinful person on the planet.

- Now here is an important teaching. When a person is saved, does he become perfect? Of course not! We struggle greatly to live a righteous life. BUT Jesus' righteousness is placed on us. So even though we all sin daily, God still treats us as the most righteous people on the planet. That is our legal standing before God. Before God, we have perfectly fulfilled all of God's requirements. This doctrine is called justification, and it's a rich and beautiful doctrine. 2 Corinthians 5:21 is a jewel. It would be good to memorize this verse and meditate on it often as it so clearly explains what happened to Jesus and what happened to us. Because of justification, Paul could write the following verses:

Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

- Why is there no condemnation?

- According to verse 1, what requirement does a person have to meet so there is no condemnation?

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Why can nothing separate us from the love of Christ? It's because God has declared that we are just, we are obedient, we are righteous, we have perfectly fulfilled all the commands of God. That's what Jesus gave us when He gave us His righteousness. What did we give to Jesus?

So once again, what is penal substitution, and why do you believe it?

5.2. Jesus' death accomplished three things.

All four gospels record the death of Christ. Jesus himself tells us that His death would accomplish three things. Study the following passages and underline the three things Christ accomplished through His death.

Matthew 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Luke 22:19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

John 12:31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Did you find the three things? Take a moment to underline them.

You probably saw the defeat of Satan and the forgiveness of our sins. Did you also catch the institution of the New Covenant? The law of Moses was the old covenant. By His death on the cross, the law of Moses was fulfilled and set aside. It no longer has the authority of a covenant but rather serves as an example to us. The Jews are no longer under its laws. But all believers are under a New Covenant, which we also call the New Testament. It gives us the forgiveness of our sins, and it has one law, love your neighbor.

Quiz - What three things did Christ accomplish by His death on the cross?

Jesus' death was sufficient to save us forever; it will keep us secure in heaven, forever and ever. We'll study this in greater detail in a future course.

A heart like King David. Here's a question for you: Would you be willing to wash my car or cut my grass each week for free? Would you give me a gift of \$10,000, buy me a new car every three years or go to prison for me? Would you die a cruel death for me? Who loves you more than anyone in this whole world? How will you show your gratitude today?

Meditation: Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

- As we all know, nothing is free. But salvation is free to us because Jesus paid the price.

6. The resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus proves several things. Let's study them now.

6.1. The fruit of the resurrection.

The following passages will highlight what the resurrection proves or what it shows us. As you study each point, underline what that verse teaches about the resurrection.

Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- According to this passage, what does the resurrection prove?

- What would it say about Jesus if He had not resurrected from the dead?

- When you try to convince others that Jesus is the Savior of the world, how much harder would it be if He had not resurrected from the dead?

Acts 17:30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

- What does God demand of all men?
- According to this passage, what does the resurrection prove?
- As the judge of all men, does Jesus have the authority to send a person to heaven or hell?

Romans 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

- According to this passage, why could Jesus be raised from the dead?
- According to this passage, what does the resurrection prove?
- We studied justification a few pages back. What is justification?
- If Jesus were a phony or if His death on the cross really wasn't the answer for our sins, would God have raised Jesus from the dead?

The MacArthur study Bible: "The resurrection provided proof that God had accepted the sacrifice of His Son and would be able to be just and yet justify the ungodly."

If a man is guilty of robbing a bank, how can the judge let him go free? That wouldn't be fair. So how is it that God says we are innocent when we are really guilty?

How can God let us escape hell when we are not innocent? The answer is Jesus. He took our sin, He paid for our crimes. So, God is not unjust; He is not wrong to let us escape hell. Because of Jesus, God is right to take us to heaven. Our sin was placed on Jesus, and His righteousness or His record of perfect obedience was placed on us. God doesn't make us perfectly righteous or obedient; He **declares** that we are now righteous, innocent, and perfectly obedient. When we die, or when we meet the Lord in the rapture, then we will live a perfectly righteous life.

When Jesus rose from the dead, it proved that His death on the cross made us righteous. It saved us. This is the teaching of 2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

- Why is our toil not in vain? Think it through. Paul has just spent the whole chapter talking about Jesus' resurrection and ours.
- Our work is not in vain because we will be resurrected.
- According to this passage, what does the resurrection prove?

Philippians 3:21 Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."

- What is this verse teaching us?
- What will our new body be like?
- According to this passage, what does the resurrection show us?

1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

- According to this passage, what does the resurrection show us?
- Jesus' resurrection body shows us what our future body will be like. Underline what it says about our future body.
- Will we still have flesh and bones?
- What does it mean when it says that it's a spiritual body?
- What things did Jesus do with His new body after the resurrection?

Quiz - what does the resurrection of Jesus prove? Write down your answers here.

6.2. The resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Psalm 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. 10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. 11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

- What does verse 11 teach us about heaven?
- What does it mean, "You will not abandon my soul to Sheol?"
- What does the phrase mean, "Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay?"
- If you were living during the times of the Old Testament and were reading this passage, would you understand that God would raise Jesus from the dead?
- Many clues were hidden in the Old Testament. Some things were very cryptic and very hard to understand, but in the New Testament, these things were made clear. Jesus brought these things to light through His teachings and the authors of the New Testament. As you read the passage below, you'll see what I mean.

Isaiah 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

- Underline each part about Jesus' death or Him taking our sin.
- What does this passage say about the resurrection?

Where was the resurrection of Jesus prophesied in the Old Testament?

6.3. Why we believe in the resurrection.

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, He is an imposter. He is not coming back to earth; we are all lost in sin. The resurrection is crucial to our faith.

Why do you believe that Jesus arose from the dead?

1. There were hundreds of eyewitnesses. He appeared to the women, the apostles, to more than 500 people, to his brother James, and the apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep.

2. Men who persecuted Christians and others who wanted Jesus dead became followers of Jesus. Men like the apostle Paul and James, the brother of Jesus.

3. Where is the body? The disciples are preaching in Jerusalem that Jesus rose from the dead. Where was the body? Why didn't the religious leaders go and show everyone where the body was?

Matthew 28:11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." 15 And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

- Why would the priests bribe the soldiers if it weren't true?

- Could the disciples have stolen the body while the guards slept?

* First of all, the penalty for letting a body be stolen was death. There were probably 2-4 soldiers. To admit that they were sleeping was tantamount to suicide.

* If they were asleep, how did they know that the disciples stole the body?

* Just a few days before, the disciples were terrified of dying at the crucifixion. They fled from the soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane. Would the disciples have the courage to steal the body now?

* Some archaeologists believe the stone may have weighed 1-2 tons. Are they really saying that the disciples moved the stone without the soldiers waking up? The idea that they stole the body is ludicrous! It's just an excuse invented by Satan.

4. Notice the change in the disciples after the resurrection. They are now bold and not afraid of death. What gave them this boldness?

5. Are the apostles liars? Did they teach others to be honest when they had just told a bald-faced lie? Were they traveling the world, suffering, knowing it was all a lie? Were they really able to keep it a secret from EVERYONE, for all of those years? As you know, secrets are terribly hard to keep and most people confess on their death bed. The truth is, you won't die for a lie. When the sword is at your throat, you will freely confess that it was all a lie. But none of the apostles did that because they knew that Jesus had risen from the dead. They ate with Him, talked with Him, and watched Him ascend into heaven.

What are five reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

Why do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

How has Jesus changed your life?

What does the change in your personal life tell you about the resurrection?

6.4. Jesus' appearances to people after his resurrection.

Before we start, think it through. To whom did Jesus appear after His resurrection? Try to remember the various groups of people.

All four gospels record the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (Matt 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20). He appeared:

- to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18),
- to the other Mary (Matthew 28:1-2)
- to Cephas (1 Cor 15:5)
- to the two disciples on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:36-43),
- to ten disciples (Luke 24-36-43)
- to Thomas and the other ten disciples (John 20:26-29)
- to seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-14)
- in Galilee on a mountain to the apostles and 500 believers (1 Cor. 15:6)
- to James (1 Cor 15:7)
- to the eleven at his ascension (Acts 1:1-11)
- to Stephen outside Jerusalem (Acts 7:55)
- to Paul near Damascus (Acts 9:3-6; 1 Cor. 15:8)
- to Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21; 23:11)
- to John on Patmos (Rev. 1:10-19)
- He appeared to the disciples for a period of 40 days before Pentecost. (Acts 1:3)

The empty tomb, the testimonies of the witnesses who saw Jesus, the transformation of the lives of antagonists such as James and Paul, the existence of the church, the inability of the Jewish leaders to refute the resurrection and the claims of the apostles, the early date and the solid character of the resurrection claim (1 Cor 15: 3-4), as well as the solid character of the evidence surrounding Jesus' existence, ministry, death by crucifixion, and burial, prove to us that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus of Nazareth actually rose from the dead and appeared to many people. His body was truly a corporeal body made for a spiritual existence and was no longer subject to death and limitations.

Thought questions.

- Why didn't Jesus appear to the whole world, why only to these people? It's good to note that Jesus told the Jews they would no longer see Him.
- What would have happened if Jesus had stayed in this world and had not gone back to heaven?
- Why didn't He stay here?

So why do you believe in Jesus? There are many religions and philosophies in the world; why do you believe that Jesus is your Savior?

- He's the only person in the history of the world that was born of a virgin. Who else can say that?
- Hundreds of prophecies were written about Him, and He fulfilled them all, many of which He had no control over. Could He have manipulated where He was born, that innocent children died because of Him, that His parents would flee to Egypt, that He would be raised in Nazareth, that He would be crucified between two thieves and buried in a rich man's tomb?
- He did thousands of miracles; even the Jewish historian Josephus writes about this.
- The rulers couldn't produce the body, proving that He was dead.
- He claimed to be God, lived a faultless life, died, and returned from the dead. All of his disciples believed in Him and were murdered for their faith in Him, except for John. They believed in Him. We, too, believe in Jesus.

A heart like King Jesus - As you consider these things, why do you praise the Lord?

6.5. The resurrection is part of the gospel message, which a person must believe to be saved.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- What does this verse teach us?

- This verse is really the gospel in a nutshell. Below, the main points of the gospel are listed that a person must believe in order to be saved. Do you find all of these points in Romans 10:9?

* God became a man.

* Died on the cross for our sins.

* Rose from the dead.

* We trust in Him.

* He forgives us all of our sin.

- Can you find these five points of the gospel in the above verse?

1 Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- What are these verses teaching us?

- This is the gospel message, and it includes the resurrection.

- Take a moment to underline the main points of the gospel.

Notice in the following passages how the apostles speak of the resurrection.

Acts 4:1 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, 2 being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

- What was their teaching?

- Why was their teaching so bothersome to the Jews?

Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

- What is this verse teaching?

- You will often find the apostles preaching the resurrection.
- As you look at the above verse, what did man do, and what did God do?

Acts 10:40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

- What are these verses teaching?
- Why is it important that Jesus is the judge of the living and the dead?
- What an incredible thing that Jesus has power over every person's destiny!

Acts 13:29 When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead.

- Why was this an important part of the gospel? Why did people need to know about the resurrection?

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel.

Why do people need to know that Jesus rose from the dead, why is that important?

How would things be different if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

Summary - A person cannot be saved unless they believe that Jesus rose from the dead; it is part of the gospel. The resurrection is also proof that Jesus is indeed God and that He paid for our sins. It shows us that God accepted His sacrifice, and as proof, God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is the judge of all mankind. He has the authority to either save a man or condemn a man. The resurrection is proof of that.

Quiz - Why do you think God made the resurrection part of what we must believe to be saved?

Meditation: Job 19:25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; 27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

- Take a moment to let your heart faint. Think about that day, when you will be resurrected. You will see God, and your heart will faint.

7. Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King.

Jesus was unique in that He fulfilled all three offices. He is the greatest of all of the prophets. He is the greatest king of Israel. He is also our great high priest. He died for us and intercedes for us.

Jesus as Prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

- What is this passage teaching?
- When John the Baptist came, they asked him if he was "the prophet." How did he respond?

John 1:21 They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

Jesus as Priest.

Hebrews 7:17 For it is attested of Him, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

- What is the author teaching us?
- Hebrews 7: 20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath 21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'"); 22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.**
- What is the teaching of these verses?
- I recommend reading Hebrews 7 to understand more about Melchizedek. He was a priest and king who met and blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave a 10% tithe to Melchizedek. In the Psalms, David prophesies about the Messiah that He would be a priest, but not from the tribe of Levi. Our Messiah would be a priest according to the order of Melchizedek, which is vastly superior to the priests of Israel. Hebrews 7 is a fascinating chapter. Once again, we see where God states a small truth in the Old Testament and then brings it to pass in the New Testament in a big way.

Jesus as King.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." **38** Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

- Does Jesus state clearly that He is a king?

What's unique about Jesus is that He fulfills all three offices. No other person could perform all three. Jesus is superior; He is matchless.

A heart like King David. As you consider these three things about Jesus, why do you praise the Lord?

8. Jesus' present ministry.

8.1. Jesus is building the church.

Matthew 16:18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

- What is Jesus doing today, according to this verse?
- Can you give three examples of how Jesus is building His church in the book of Acts?

Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

- How is Jesus building His church today?

8.2. Jesus is our Advocate.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

- What is this passage teaching us?

- As you read the following passages, what Jesus does for us as our Advocate will become clearer.

Romans 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

- What is this passage teaching us?

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- What is this passage teaching us?
- Notice that in these last two passages, the context concerns our sin and salvation.
- MacArthur Study Bible - There are four reasons the believer can never be found guilty: 1) Christ's death; 2) His resurrection; 3) His exalted position, and 4) His continual intercession for them.
- According to these two passages, what is Jesus doing for you today?

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- What does Jesus' life do for us? What does He do for us in the presence of the Father?
- Why does Jesus need to intercede for us in the presence of the Father?

So, what does it mean that Jesus is our Advocate?

8.3. Jesus is preparing a place for us.

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

- What is Jesus doing for us? What are these verses teaching us?
- Expositor's Bible Commentary: "The imagery of a dwelling place ("rooms") is taken from the oriental house in which the sons and daughters have apartments under the same roof as their parents. The purpose of his departure was to make ready the place where he could welcome them permanently. Certainly, he would not go to prepare a room for his friends unless he expected that they would also eventually arrive."

- Bible Knowledge Commentary: "I will come back refers here, not to the Resurrection or to a believer's death, but to the Rapture of the church when Christ will return for His sheep (cf. 1 Thes. 4:13-18) and they will be with Him (cf. John 17:24)."
- So, what does it mean that Jesus is preparing a place for us? Is the New Jerusalem under construction, are there buildings, and if so, what would their purpose be?

8.4. Jesus helps us.

Acts 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

John 14:14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

- What is Jesus doing for us today?
- Got Questions: "In the old American West, before the days of credit cards, a shopkeeper would maintain a ledger book recording the activities of each customer's account and the amount owed. The business owner knew his customers well and the work in which they were involved. A customer would at times send others to the shop for him to make purchases and bring back materials needed for his home or business. Those sent in the customer's stead (e.g., his children) would be able to receive the goods "in the name of" the account owner. But, if they tried to purchase things not in line with what the shopkeeper knew the customer needed or wanted, the purchase would be denied."

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

- What is Jesus doing for us today?
- How does Jesus strengthen you?
- What things cause a person to be weak, and what helps you to be strong in the Lord's mighty power?

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- What is Jesus doing for us today?
- Can you give an example of how Jesus has strengthened you?

So, we see that Jesus hears our prayers, and Jesus strengthens us. Jesus is intimately connected with His children, watching over us day by day.

Two of our children have suffered great emotional pain due to heavy metal toxicity. My daughter was living in a tent in the Texas countryside for two months because a house would cause her such pain. We didn't understand then but later found out and started correcting the problem. Life's problems can push you to ask the question, "why doesn't God hear my prayers? Do I need to pray harder? Do I need to get more people involved?"

It was good to hear Chuck Swindoll talk about many godly friends that God never healed. This is what he shared. "There are times when God does heal, there are times when we need a thorn in the flesh, there are times when it is simply for God's glory, such as the blind man in John 9, and there are times when it is due to sin, such as in 1 Corinthians 11. But there are many times when it simply is not God's will to heal a person. Don't give up praying, but it's just good to remember that healing someone isn't always God's will." Now, when Jesus returns to the earth, things will be different; that's why we pray daily for the Lord to come. Revelation 22:20 "Come, Lord Jesus."

We've finished this section about Jesus' present ministry, and it's a joy to know that Jesus is watching over us daily, moment by moment. He intercedes for us as our Advocate; He strengthens us, He builds us up, and He hears our prayers. How would your life be different if you had never come to know Christ?

In our studies, we've seen that Jesus is God Almighty, that He became a man, that He died for us, and that He is our Savior. We've noticed that He rose from the dead and is the greatest prophet, priest, and king. We've seen that Jesus helps us today and that He is preparing a place for us. Let's change directions and look at Jesus' ministry of making disciples.

Meditation: Acts 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. 55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

- What will the day be like when Jesus receives your spirit? How old will you be? How healthy will you be? How joyful will you be? Will you be walking in sin or in victory? What will it be like, the day you arrive in heaven to meet your Savior?

9. Making disciples.

Let's say that you need to have your appendix removed. As you consult with your doctor, you notice that he received his doctorate from YouTube, that today is his first day on the job, and that he has only seen videos of this procedure. He has never been in an operating room before.

- How would you feel?
- What do you think the training procedures should be for a surgeon?
- How does this compare with the principles Jesus used to train his men, and what are those principles?

Let's consider what Jesus did.

- He chose 12 good men out of thousands.
- He taught them the truth and they observed Him as He taught others.
- He spent personal time with these men. There was a lot of personal interaction and conversation.
- He had them practice preaching and evangelizing. They participated in the ministry.
- He had a clear goal for them and called them to fulfill that goal.
- This is important. He trained them to win souls, preach, and make disciples, who would then train others. Jesus taught them the Bible but He also worked on their character and skills.

Review:

- What are your thoughts on what we've just talked about?
- Has anyone spent personal time with you or disciplined you on a regular basis?
- What would you say is the difference between leading a Bible study and discipling someone?
- If someone were to disciple you, or if you were to disciple someone else, what do you think that should look like? What goals would you have for your disciple, or what goals would someone have for you?
 - * Should you ask your disciple to spend a certain amount of time in the Word each week? If so, how much time?
 - * Is it important for them to be involved in a weekly ministry? What would you ask of them?
 - * If someone were discipling you, and saw a glitch in your life, would you want them to correct you? If so, what would be a good way for them to do that?

Hands down, Jesus was the greatest teacher that ever walked on this earth. He was the greatest man, the greatest prophet, the greatest friend, the greatest pastor, the most skilled debater, the greatest counselor. Jesus was all that an individual could ever be and is the greatest example for any person in any pursuit one might have in life. Jesus is the most loving individual, the most gracious, the most skilled, and indeed the wisest friend a person could ever have. Jesus is so magnificent and so full of wisdom and grace that John said: "I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written." In the 1000-year reign of Christ, people will come from across the world just to see Jesus in His beauty and glory.

Jesus was easily the greatest man to ever live on this earth, and there are a million things that Jesus could have done during His time here. He could have taught us about disease and how to heal the human body. He could have taught us the wisest form of human government and brought peace, a one-world government, and one currency. He could have shown us new forms of energy. He could have taught man about technology and made significant advances for the human race. OR, He could have chosen 12 men and poured His life into them. He could have taught them truth and shown them how to keep that truth pure and alive from generation to generation because the truth sets us free. And in reality, that's what He did. Jesus made disciples. That's where He invested His time in training men. So, when Jesus left our planet, what did He command us to do?

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- In your opinion, what is a disciple?
- Make disciples is the main verb, the main command. And we do this by going, baptizing, and teaching.
 - * What does the word "going" emphasize?
 - * Where would you go, and to whom would you go?
 - * What does the word "baptizing" emphasize?
 - * What does the word "teaching" emphasize?
 - * What is it that we are to teach our disciples?
 - * What does it mean to make disciples?
- To make it clear, what would you be doing if you were to make disciples?

Jesus' life was given to helping others know God and walk with God, this included both believers and unbelievers. He made disciples. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus--he imitates Jesus. He does what Jesus did.

- What did Jesus do?
- What should a disciple do?

This is an important point. When you make disciples, your goal for that person should be that they not only obey Jesus and know God's Word but also that they are making disciples. You're not simply making a disciple; you're making a **disciple maker**, someone who personally cares for the souls of others. That is your goal. What are your thoughts on this?

Paul gave Timothy this same command of disciples training others.

2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- What is this passage teaching us?
- Paul told Timothy to invest his life in those who are faithful.
 - * How would you describe a faithful person?
 - * How does a dictionary define faithful?
 - * People often use the acronym FAT. Faithful, available, teachable. If people aren't faithful, if they won't or can't invest time and if they aren't teachable, this person will not make a good disciple. What are your thoughts on this?
 - * What things would hinder someone from being a good disciple and what qualities would help a person be a good disciple?

The gospel was in danger. Many people were twisting the teachings of God's Word, and many churches weren't doing well. That is the context for the book of 2 Timothy. How could Timothy keep the teachings of God's Word strong for future generations? He would do it by investing in the lives of faithful men. He would train faithful men. Paul trained Timothy. Timothy trained faithful men. These men, in turn trained others.

Now, since we've been looking at the word faithful, let's see what Jesus says about it.

Luke 16:10 “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? 12 And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”

- What is the teaching of this passage?
- Jesus directs us to look at three things: the little things / how a person uses their money / and how they treat another person's property. These three things help you know if a person is faithful.
- Take a moment to think this through. How would you use these three things to evaluate someone?
- Here are some simple tests to see if a person is faithful. "Could you help me set up chairs on Sunday at 8:45 a.m.?" "Please memorize this verse and get back to me." "Read this passage and we'll discuss it on Friday." "Could you help me hand out flyers this Saturday at 10?" "Could you help me organize this outing?" If people aren't willing to get involved, what does that tell you about them?
- Often many people fail in the little things and just never advance. Whether they are believers or unbelievers, there needs to be a degree of faithfulness. Remember that Jesus called many unbelievers to follow Him.
- Before we go further, what things would hold a person back from knowing God's Word and becoming a disciple maker?

We've looked at four Bible passages so far. What important principles do we learn from:

- 1 Peter 2:21
- Matthew 28:19-20
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Luke 16:10-12

Next, let's look at some more key passages which tell us about Jesus' ministry of making disciples.

Mark 3:13 And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. 14 And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach.

- What is the teaching of these two verses?
- In verse 14, we see that Jesus had two goals for these men. What are they?
- If someone were to disciple you, how would spending time with you enable them to do a better job of helping you grow?
- Jesus had goals for His disciples. What would your goal be for your disciple?
- When you spend time with a person, you get to know them. You form a bond, and you can help them grow; you can help them work on their weak areas. That is the advantage.
- Jesus also had a goal for His disciples. When you choose to spend time with a person, you need to have a goal for them, and you guide them towards that goal. Specifically, you want them to have a discipleship ministry someday. They learn to witness, to share their testimony; they learn the gospel. They also learn to start serving. They learn how they can best fulfill the great commission. This is the advantage of discipleship.
- At the same time, growth takes a long time. It will take time for people's lives to be transformed. You'll need to be patient with them, gentle. Some pastors are quite demanding and harsh. Be gentle with God's people. With evangelism, Paul tells us to be gracious and our conversation is to be tasty, savory. In dealing with believers and unbelievers, God gives us these instructions.

2 Timothy 2:24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

- How do you see Jesus fulfilling these truths?

Question - Could you help another person get into God's Word? You could meet once a week and talk about what you've both read that week and where you are growing. That would be a good starting point for learning how to help another.

Let's look at another passage from Jesus.

Mark 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

- What is this passage teaching us?
- Let's think through each part. First, He called them to follow Him. Would you feel comfortable saying to a person, "follow me?" What would you say?
- He often invited men to follow Him; what does this tell you about Jesus?
 - * Was it easy for Jesus to have large groups of people around Him all of the time?
 - * Was it easy for the disciples to leave their homes and follow Jesus, not knowing where they would sleep that night or what they would eat?
 - * How would you feel if 100 people or more were with you all the time, waiting for you to do a miracle or teach them? How would it work for you to have someone following you 24/7?
 - * Is this what Paul or Peter did? Were they constantly calling on people to follow them? Did they have hundreds of people following them? How did they make disciples? What did they do?
 - * What kind of discipleship would work for you if you were receiving discipleship or discipling someone else?
- I believe verse 17 tells us the significant difference between leading a Bible study and discipleship. Discipleship is the care of souls. You spend time with that person and help them grow in their knowledge, character, and ministry. Your goal is for your disciple to disciple others.
- What does verse 18 teach us?

Now out of all of the New Testament, the following passage gives us the clearest blueprint for the purpose of the church. So, here's a question for you: **what is the purpose of the church?** Write out your answer before you go any further.

As I look at different church websites, I see what a church says about itself. Here are some statements I've found.

- We proclaim Him...that we may present every man complete in Christ.
- To know Him and to make Him known.
- To help you explore and grow in your relationship with God.
- Love God, Live Like Jesus and Serve Others.
- Living life according to God's Word is the way to an abundant, fulfilling life.

- Loving, Liberating and Life-giving.
- We exist to glorify God by strengthening all believers and sharing the gospel with everyone.

Of the above examples, which one do you like the best?

What would you say should be the purpose for your church?

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.

- Why did Jesus give these men, these leaders to the church? You'll find the answer in the next verse.

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

NLT 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

- What does this verse teach us?
- As a leader, what should your goal be for someone?
- * What were Jesus' two goals for His disciples in the above passages, Mark 3 and Mark 1?
- * What goals would you have for your disciple? Let's say that you are meeting with a teenager. What goals would you have for him or her?

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- The phrase "unity of the faith" is talking about what a person believes. You might talk about the Catholic faith, the Baptist faith, or the Mormon faith. You're talking about what they believe. Notice the next phrase, "the knowledge of the Son of God." These two phrases teach the same principle. We want our disciples to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and, believe it, hold to it.
- What knowledge goals might you have for your disciple?
- How would you help them reach those goals?

- I personally would like to see people have a general understanding of God's Word, to understand well the books of the New Testament, and also to walk through doctrinal and practical studies.

In order to reach these goals, a disciple must learn to get in the Word daily. This is crucial. It's good to talk with your disciple about a personal Bible study goal. It's also good to keep in mind that it's hard for some people to read and take notes. Encourage them to listen to God's Word, to listen to sermons and audiobooks.

Some of our teens read a paragraph and write a short summary. Other teens listen to the Bible. They then meet with an adult from our church each week, if only for a minute or two, to share what they are doing. This can be by phone or in person. The adult asks them what they are reading and how it's going. The adult also prays for that teen during the week and shows an interest in that teen; he adopts that teen. I believe this to be good for both my teens as well as my adults since the interaction goes both ways.

By doing this, the adults learn to care for someone else, and the teens are encouraged in their walk with the Lord.

Let's sum up our study on verse 13.

- 1 - We help our disciples learn to get into the Bible and pray every day. This is vital. If they don't do this, they won't grow much.
- 2 - We guide our disciples into a Bible study with someone else, such as this very study or a book of the Bible. Of course, they need to go to a good church regularly, and it's great to help them memorize God's Word.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

- How does God describe a child?
- Would you describe yourself as a child, a teen, or an adult in your knowledge of God's Word?
- How about your character and your ministry?

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

- It's helpful to know that the word "speaking" is not in the text of verse 15. The Greek text simply says, "truthing in love." In verse 27 Paul **does** use the word "speak." "SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR." But not here.

- "Truthing" can mean to be a person of truth, or to speak the truth. It can mean to act genuinely, truly and to endeavor to express the truth in a loving manner, to be faithful to the truth, to deal faithfully or truly with anyone.
- When a person walks in truth, he grows. When a person speaks the truth, follows the truth, acts on truth, this person grows. This is a key principle for your daily life. Knowing and living out the truth causes you to grow. When you choose not to be anxious, you will grow. When you choose to pray, you will grow. When you learn new truth or remember truths you've studied in the past, you will grow. Living out truth, following the truth, and saying the truth, brings growth. This is speaking about our character. We all need to grow in our character, in our Christlikeness.
- Here's a good question: What are some character issues that would hinder a person in their ability to become mature, to become a disciple-maker?
- How can we help one another grow in our character? Let's say that you are having a hard time forgiving someone. How could someone else help you deal with that? What would you want? Think about that for a moment.
- First of all, we need to have a clear idea of what forgiveness is.
 - * Did Jesus just forgive Peter or did He deal with the issue?
 - * When Joseph met his brothers after they sold him into slavery, did he just let it go or did he test his brothers? How did Paul respond to Alexander the metalworker who had done him much harm? You need to let go of some things, while you need to work out others. And it's always good to remember that mercy triumphs over judgment. So, as you've had to work with issues in your personal life, following God's Word, you can help others.
 - * Did David forget what Shimei and Joab had done? Did Jacob forget what his sons had done? What is the difference between forgetting and forgiving?
 - * Remember that your responsibility is to forgive and be willing to reconcile when the other person is ready.

What we learn from this passage is that our leaders help the flock to carry out the ministry. The flock grows deep in their knowledge of God's Word, in their Christ likeness and they become skilled in their service, their ministry.

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- What does this passage teach us?

- It's crucial that a person is active in ministry. They need to be focused outside of their home. A friend of mine has three children, plus they adopted five; and his wife just gave birth to their ninth child, and yet he finds time to serve others. If a person is not willing to serve, then he'll never reach the maturity goal.

I've included some ideas that I have for ministry. These are things that a disciple might do.

Evangelism

- Invite friends or family to church, to a church outing, to a church dinner - we do "supper under the stars." It's an easy way to invite unbelievers to a church gathering.
- Help plan an outing, camping event or supper under the stars.
- Hand out flyers - at the traffic light - (this is acceptable where we live), at someone's door, at the high school.
- Lead a Bible study with an unbeliever. Study these passages with them. John 3, John 4, Acts 10, Ephesians 2:1-10. I normally ask the unbeliever to read the passage and teach me. This really adds to the Bible study.
- Learn to lead a Bible study / learn how to share your testimony / how to present the gospel / how to start a conversation about Jesus.
- Get involved in a service ministry, where you help people as a way to share the gospel. / In the past, we've painted houses, sealed roofs, helped with their lawn or other needs. Do you have any other ideas?
- If you live in a colder culture where people are not open to new friendships, you may need to find ways to connect with people before you can ever share the gospel.

Prayer

- Adopt a person. Ask them for praise and prayer on a regular basis. Pray together.
- Talk to people about joining a prayer group / check up on people in a prayer group / share prayer requests and praises on WhatsApp.
- Pray for the church ministries - Sunday services, Bible studies during the week, pray for the pastor, his family, and his ministry with other pastors and churches.
- Pray with other people. Get together by phone or in person and pray / go to a prayer meeting.

Deacon Ministries

- cut the grass / clean the church building / spray for termites / do construction or maintenance on the church building or church machines / help with government documents / work with the purchase of the property / help with taxes / help with keeping track of finances / help with the bank / count the offering / keep records of church business / help a brother from the church who has a physical need--such as his car or house or some other need. / give people a ride to church / Usher - greet people at the door at church with a smile and help them find a chair. / Be the person that organizes these things and gets others involved.

Discipleship

- Pray with another person each week.
- Talk to a teen or adult each week about what they've listened to, read, or the chapter summary they've written.
- Teach a children's Sunday school class, help in the nursery.
- At a meal, print out a passage which is not too difficult and have each person explain one verse. One person explains verse 1, and then you ask for others to opine or you might make a comment. You then go to the next verse or verses and the next person in line shares. As the leader, you guide the discussion but you don't dominate. We do this with believers and unbelievers and it's just been phenomenal.
- Teach at youth group.
- Adopt a person; this could be an eight-year-old, a teen, or an adult. Pray for them daily. Talk to them each week, every few weeks, or each month. Why do they give thanks to the Lord? What are their prayer requests?
- Greet someone who has come to church for the first time. Ask how you can pray for them.
- Lead a weekly Bible study.
- Go through a Bible course with another person - you both study on your own and then meet to discuss what you've learned and talk about any questions. OR, you don't study on your own. You both meet to go through a course together.
- Share a short teaching on Sunday morning. Give your salvation testimony in church. Share a praise in church. Get up in church and explain something that God is doing in your life.
- Lead the singing, present the Lord's table.

What other ministries might you add to this list?

It's crucial that people become involved in ministry. This is part of making disciples. This is the care of souls, and it's what Jesus has called us to do. We invest our lives in people. We have a goal for them, and we help them reach that goal. Our goal is for them to become a mature believer who is helping others know and walk with Jesus. That is discipleship!

Luke 6:40 A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

- If a disciple does not in turn make disciples, has he been fully trained?
- How would your life be different if someone cared for you, loved you, prayed for you, and guided you?
- What would you want from a person that might disciple you?

Let's consider what Jesus did.

- He chose 12 good men out of thousands. Let's talk about that.

- * Some people have very odd ideas about the Bible and aren't open to learning. It won't work to spend much time with that person if they are not open to learn.
- * Some people have major character issues. Some are annoying; some are judgmental; some are bitter; some are proud; some are in sin; some know it all; some lack grace, among many other things. It's not easy to deal with these things, and they must be dealt with. I often find that the Lord starts bringing trials into that person's life, which makes it easier to work with them. But you must work with character issues.
- * Some people won't study, they won't show up, and they won't help. Others have no time. You'll have to wait until they are able or willing to invest time in their growth and service.
- * Young Timothy, on the other hand, was well spoken of by everybody.
- * It's essential that a person is faithful, that he's open to learning, and that he will invest time in his walk with the Lord. Focus first on your most faithful people, be it a teen or an adult. Test them and work with them. Meet with them for four weeks before committing to something long-term.
- Another thing that Jesus did was teach the disciples truth, and they observed Him as He taught others.
- Jesus spent personal time with these men. They watched Him and learned from Him as He walked through life.
- He had them practice preaching and evangelizing.
- He had a clear goal for them. He trained them to win souls, preach, and make disciples, who would then train others.

It's good to know that Jesus actually called His disciples to follow Him on various occasions. It was the 3rd time when they left their nets and followed Him. Jesus called all kinds of men to follow Him, including many unbelievers. Large crowds followed Jesus. As He spent time with these men, He could see that they were faithful and would make good disciples. He also spent the night in prayer before choosing them.

In reality, I will invite just about anyone to a personal Bible study. Depending on the person, I might tell them that it's just for four weeks. If they don't respond well during that time, then I can end it at the four-week mark, but if they respond well, then we can continue on. As we spend time together, it gives me a chance to see if they are teachable.

Now, some people never actually come to the study or they postpone the study. Some people have very strange ideas and just want to argue. Others have major issues in their lives and aren't willing to change. You can't work with these people, and if you try, they normally won't get very far in their Christian walk. You want to invest your time in people who are teachable.

As I start working with people, I normally give them some homework. I ask them to study a passage and explain it to me, and we do a Bible study together. I even do this with unbelievers.

It's called the Socratic method, and it works really well. When people have to study and teach you, it causes them to learn so much more.

One more point. I personally try to only do one on one studies with people who are willing to study and willing to serve.

May the Lord bless you and teach you as you seek to love others and help them grow in Christ!

Meditation: 2 Thessalonians 1:6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

- What will the day be like when man comes from across the globe, just to marvel at Jesus?
What will be so wonderful about Jesus that all of mankind will be so amazed at Him?

Congratulations on finishing this course! I pray that it has been a blessing to your life. Pastor Bob. November 29, 2022

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. **MentorMaterial@gmail.com**. You can find more courses like this one at www.MentorMaterial.com. As time goes on, I'll be adding more courses like this one at www.MentorMaterial.com. There will also be a **Spanish** edition.

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About the author.

Hi, I'm Bob Schneider. I grew up in McCook, Nebraska, USA. I came to Christ at the age of 14. My parents encouraged all of us kids to attend one year of Bible college which is where I met my wife, Karon. She had grown up in Barcelona where her family served as missionaries. In 1991 we moved to Barcelona, Spain with our two-year-old daughter, Elyssa. During those years Daniel was born and then we moved to the south of Spain where Jonathan was born. In 2002 we moved to Puerto Rico, where we currently serve as missionaries with Biblical Ministries Worldwide.

Please feel free to **copy** these materials, print them, use them, or translate them. If you translate them, **please let me know** so that I can add them to our website.

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