



Who Is Jesus? Leadership Guide Session 1: Good or God?

Is Jesus really who he says he is? Is he really the most important person in history? Someone who deserves our respect and admiration- or is he more than that? Is he someone who deserves our worship? Who is Jesus?

Watch

Play the video for session one. As you watch, use the following outline to record any key points that stand out to you.

Notes

Jesus' exchange with his disciples in Matthew 16:13-20 reveals the central question all people must answer for themselves: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

We have to begin by asking this question from a historical point of view: *Was Jesus a real person, or was he just a fable created by people?"*

A survey of some of the commentators in Jesus' day can help us answer the question. History gives us the testimony of:

Tacitus, a roman senator (c. AD 56-120)

Suetonius, overseer of the libraries of Rome (c. AD 61-122)

Pliny the Younger, a Roman legate (c. AD 61-113)

Flavius Josephus, best known Jewish historian in the time of Christ (c. AD 37 - 100)

Jesus was clearly a real historical person. This brings us to a second question: *Was Jesus who he claimed to be?* For this question, we turn to eyewitnesses recorded primarily in the Gospels.

Jesus clearly claimed to be God. In John 10:28-33, a group of Jews were eager to charge Jesus with blasphemy, the sin of a moral claiming to be God, and to stone him to death.

Jesus' assertion that he is the Son of God leaves us with three directions for assessing this claim: he was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.

These options do not allow for the claim that Jesus was just a "great moral teacher." Jesus consistently claimed to be sent by his Father ... even up to his death.

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We each have to wrestle with Jesus' claims - for he left us no other choice. We can't assume a simple, regurgitated, my-grandmother-told-me-so answer: we must each formulate our own response.

Discussion Questions

Take a few minutes within your group to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being rarely and 10 being daily, how often do you wrestle with the question at the center of this study: *Who is Jesus?*
2. How important is this question to your ability to trust God along with the credibility and relevance of the Bible?
3. How do you feel about the amount of historical evidence for the life and death of Jesus by noted historians? How does this affect your personal faith?
4. Do you agree that Jesus' claims leave us with only three conclusions about his identity- liar, lunatic, or Lord? Do you think Jesus can be good without being God? Explain.
5. Prior to this group, how much personal time have you invested in studying the identity of Jesus? What evidence have you found most influential or persuasive?
6. How would you respond if a friend asked you, "Who do you *really* think Jesus is?" Who would you answer this way?