

## Jesus: Son of God and Son of Man (Christology)

### Session Outline

1. Intro
2. 2 Essential Truths about Jesus
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3. What Jesus Did
  - a. Jesus preached the coming kingdom of God
  - b. Jesus revealed His identity
    - i. Jesus revealed himself as the Son of God
    - ii. Jesus revealed himself as equal to God
    - iii. Jesus revealed himself as Messiah of the Jews
    - iv. Jesus revealed himself as Savior of the world
    - v. Jesus revealed himself as Sovereign over the kingdom of God

### Introducing Jesus – Who Jesus is...

**Say** It may seem odd that, in a Christian environment such as this group, that it isn't until this session that the center of the Christian faith, Jesus, is being introduced. To be clear, this is intentional. Yet, before getting into the reasons for this approach, let us address some essential truths about who Jesus is:

#### Essential Truth #1: Jesus is fully God

**Ask** What are some of the different views of Jesus (who He was/is or what His purpose was), either that you personally hold, or are aware of? (*answers may include: Jesus is God, Jesus is God's son, Jesus is just a man, Jesus was a wise teacher, Jesus was a good example, Jesus was a political reactionary, Jesus was an itinerant preacher, Jesus was a prophet, Jesus was the reincarnation of Elijah or Moses, Jesus was a myth, or others*).

**Say** It is important to understand the essential truth about these or other views, because some of these views are demonstrably incorrect, while others capture some of who Jesus is. We go to the Bible to see that Jesus is clearly presented as the second person of the Triune God of the Holy Scriptures. Here are just a few of the establishing Scriptures that affirm that Jesus is fully God: **(Read through this as a group):**

#### Jesus is fully God

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, *Mighty God*, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*....No one has ever seen God; *the only God, who is at the Father's side*, he has made him known. (*John 1:1, 18*)

**Ask** What stands out to you in these 3 couplets of Scriptures? *(Answers may include a deliberate connection from Old Testament indications of the identity of the Lord with New Testament revelations of Jesus as God, and clear teaching that Jesus is God...not all the incorrect or incomplete understandings of who Jesus is thought to be)*

**Say** It is vital to understand that Jesus *thought* Himself to be God in the flesh and He *presented Himself* as God in the flesh expressly *because He was God in the flesh*. He declared His shared identity with the Father (see John 10:38 & 14:9-11).

**Ask** If Jesus is God the Son (or God in the flesh) and equal with God in identity, what does this say about who Jesus is (His nature or some of His attributes)? *(Answers include: Jesus is co-creator, Jesus is good, Jesus is holy, Jesus is the Almighty, Jesus is pure love, Jesus is eternal).*

**Say** As the centerpiece of Christianity, understand that Jesus is fully God, but He is not the Father. He is the Son, equal to the Father. He is equal in substance and one with the Father in His being but distinct in His personhood.

## Essential Truth #2: Jesus is fully Man

**Say** Equally important to understanding that Jesus was fully God is the importance of understanding that Jesus is

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fully man. To be fully man means that Jesus was a human. He was not a ghost, a force, a spirit, a mutant, an alien, or any other type of non-human entity. **(Read together as a group)**

#### Jesus is fully Human

- *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

Pastor and theologian John Piper succinctly summarizes the humanity of Jesus: He was born (Luke 2:7). He grew (Luke 2:40, 52). He grew tired (John 4:6) and got thirsty (John 19:28) and hungry (Matthew 4:2). He became physically weak (Matthew 4:11; Luke 23:26). He died (Luke 23:46). And he had a real human body after his resurrection (Luke 24:39; John 20:20, 27). He had a human heart and emotions (Matthew 8:10; 26:38; John 11:33–35; 12:27; John 13:21; Hebrews 5:7). He had a human mind (Luke 2:52) and limitation of thoughts (Mark 13:32), despite possessing the infinite knowledge of God (John 21:7). He had a human will that He submitted to the Father's will (John 6:38; Matthew 26:39).

Fully human, Jesus also faced every temptation that man faces (Hebrews 4:15). However, whereas every other person sins (James 1:14-15), Jesus denied every temptation perfectly (1 Peter 2:22)

**Ask** What questions arise as you try to understand how Jesus can be both fully God and fully man? *(answers will vary – do not attempt to answer questions at this time)*

**Say** In an upcoming session, we will look more closely at exactly *why* Jesus is both fully God and fully human (and there is a good explanation for this!) Here, though, we can look at these Scriptures (as a sample of many more) that affirm the reality that Jesus is both fully God and fully man and from this, we can proceed in our remaining time together, from *who Jesus is*, to *what Jesus did*:

### Introducing Jesus – What Jesus Did...

**Say** Much of the disagreement about Jesus focuses on the activities of Jesus. Some people think Jesus was a radical revolutionary because of the message He gave and the following He accumulated. Others think He was a great teacher because He was (but that wasn't all He was). Some people think He was a great example because of the incredible deeds He performed (and He is, but that isn't all He is). We are going to examine two primary activities that Jesus accomplished while on earth:

#### Jesus Came to Preach the Coming Kingdom of God

**Ask** What do you understand the Kingdom of God to be? *(answers may include: heaven, God's reign over creation, and other responses)*

**Say** Most scholars agree that Jesus lived about 33 years, with the last three years of his life being the intentional time of his public ministry. Those three years began with Jesus making a public announcement of his intent. **(read or have a volunteer read):**

*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll*

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<sup>†</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-is-fully-human>  
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and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16-21)

**Ask** What stands out to you in this passage? *(answers will vary)*

**Say** It is important to see, that from Jesus’ statement, the Kingdom of God was imminent, and the fact of this was *good news*. It was a message of liberty, and of healing (both physical and spiritual). It was a message of God’s good will toward His creation. This was also the message that Jesus faithfully spoke throughout His three years among the people: **(read or have a volunteer read):**

- *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”...And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (Matthew 4:17; 23)*
- *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (Matthew 9:35)*
- *And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:60)*
- *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)*

**Ask** What stands out to you in these passages? *(answers will vary)*

**Say** As you can tell from this sampling of passages, the Kingdom of God was an important reality to Jesus. It was not just a “broadcast message,” it was a very personal message, too. He appealed for people to respond personally to the invitation to experience it. Don’t miss, too, that the Kingdom of God is something that Jesus taught that *could be* and *would soon be* experienced. It wasn’t just a philosophy or state of mind. It was a transcendent and transformational reality.

### Jesus Came, Revealing His Identity

**Say** Not only did Jesus talk about the Kingdom of God, He continually revealed His identity along the way. He regularly identified Himself in the terms of His relationship to God, His relationship to the Kingdom, and His relationship to man. Here is a sample of His self-identification: **(have volunteers read the following sections)**

#### Jesus was identified as the Son of God

- Jesus’ disciples faithfully identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16; John 1:49)
- Jesus’ friends declared belief that Jesus is the Son of God (John 11:27)
- Demons fearfully identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 8:28-30)
- Jesus’ persecutors identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 27:54)
- The angels proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God (Luke 1:35)
- Satan tested Jesus as the Son of God (Luke 4:1-13)

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- Jesus affirmed that He is the Son of God (Luke 22:70; John 1:51)
- God the Father unquestionably identified Jesus as His Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5)

#### He identified Himself as equal to God

A major theme of Jesus' message was His complete unity and co-identity with God (John 10:22, 30; 17:11, 21). Several times, He referred to Himself in terms of the "divine 'I am.'" Five times He did so directly (John 6:20; 8:24,28,58; 18:5), and seven times metaphorically, saying:

- I am the bread of life (John 6:35, 48, 51)
- I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5)
- I am the door of the sheep (John 10:7, 9)
- I am the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
- I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
- I am the true vine (John 15:1)

These declarations are a clear, intentional reference to God's self-identification to Moses (Exodus 3:14). To equate Himself with God was to declare Himself to be God. This message was blasphemy to the religious leaders and politically upheaving for the civic authorities. Yet, Jesus never backed down from this assertion, and with His resurrection three days after His death and burial, He proved Himself to be true.

#### He identified Himself as the promised Messiah of the Jews

Beginning with His announcement of His public ministry (Luke 4:16-21), Jesus regularly indicated to His audience that He was the fulfillment of the Messiah promised to save the Jewish people:

- "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matt. 5:17).
- "But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled" (Matt. 26:56).
- "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44).
- "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40).
- "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?" (John 5:46-47).

#### He was identified as the Savior of the World

Throughout His life, Jesus was identified as the one person appointed to save the world:

- The angel revealed it to the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:21)
- The angels declared it to the shepherds at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:11)
- The Samaritan men professed it after spending time with Him (John 4:42)
- In the twilight of his life, the Apostle John testified to it (1 John 4:14)
- His cousin, John the Baptist, introduced Jesus as Savior (John 1:29)
- Jesus repeatedly explained His purpose to save the world (e.g., John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10)

## He identified Himself as the Sovereign of the Kingdom of God

In Jesus' final week, He arrived into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy of the promised King's entry (John 12:15). When questioned before the Roman leader Pontius Pilate, Jesus affirmed His Kingship:

*Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." (John 18:37)*

**Ask** Of all these revelations or disclosures about Jesus' identity, which stand out to you and why? *(discuss)*

**Say** In closing, we see that Jesus was unique in all of human history. He is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. He didn't come to start a religion, He came to save the world. In our next time together, we will dive more deeply into this purpose, so we can understand it and personalize it.

*Close in prayer with and for one another, making sure to attend to the needs of your group, planning for serving together, or other details relevant to the group. Confirm your next time and location to meet.*