

Jesus: Who is He?

Goal: This study lays the foundation for who Jesus is: His claims are unique, he doesn't just see himself as a good teacher, but as the one sent from God whose role is unique.

Openers:

- Have each Core member come up with something that is true about them, but not about anyone else in the group. What makes you unique?
(For some people, this will be more difficult, so don't just sit awkwardly and wait for them to come up with something. Make sure to have the group prompt them with questions until you find something that makes them unique!)

Scripture:

Mark 8:27-29 (NIV) - Peter Declares that Jesus is the Messiah

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus forgave sins, which only God had authority to do. Mark 2:5-11

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?" 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

John 4:25-26 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!"

Mark 14:61-62 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Digging Deeper:

Get out a whiteboard or large piece of paper. At the top, write "*Who Do People Say Jesus Is?*"

1. As a group, make a list of things people say about Jesus (whether you agree with them or not).
2. Be creative and be thorough! Here are some ideas to help people think outside the box: Jesus is...a good teacher, a chauvinist, a feminist, compassionate, judgmental, God, not God, powerful, weak, unique, not important, etc.

3. When you finish making the list, pick some of the ideas from the board, one at a time, and ask, "Where do you think people get this idea from?" (*Parents, friends, media, Bible, professors, etc*)

Ask the next question from the passage, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?"

1. Have people, individually on a piece of paper, write down the things from the board that they think are true.
 2. Have people share a couple of the ones they wrote down, and where they got those ideas from.
 3. Have everyone pick one of the things they did *not* write down (because they don't think it's true). Ask, "If that thing *was* true about Jesus, how would your life be different?"
 4. Ask, "Why does it matter what we think about Jesus?"
- Give everyone a 3x5 card. Have them write down one question that this discussion has raised in their mind. Tell everyone to bring that 3x5 card to their 1:1's that week, so you can make a plan to find out the answers together!