

Investigative Bible Discussions
A Compilation of Lessons

edited by

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Investigative Bible Discussions

David J. Fischer

My goals:

- A 45 minute study (discussion) - I tended to exceed this. These lessons are 45-60 minutes long.
[I need to make them \leq 20 minutes long]
- 6 weeks long
- Use a guide
- Dinner before the study
- Set 1.5 hr total
- Get the other person(s) their own bible

The Rules:

- Feel free to disagree with me
- We start and end on time
- Strive to meet consistently
- Tell me if you want to change the way we do this
- Be honest about what you think. No "gray squirrel" answers

More Comments:

- This is greatly expanded since I last revised this section, and these lessons now reflect about four months of effort.
- The later lessons were written with a 20-30 minute time limit in mind; they don't necessarily meet that goal.
- I don't make any claims that these lessons are effective, useful to anyone but myself, or in any sort of coherent order. However, I guarantee (or your money back) that if you study all of these topics, you will, as I did, learn a great deal!
- Don't be surprised by near-duplicate lessons: Whenever I modified a lesson, no matter how little, I included the revision. I thought it better to have copies of lessons, rather than risk losing something useful. Likewise, if you modify these lessons for your own use, I would appreciate copies so I can include them in future revisions.

Jesus teaches the professor

John 3:1-21

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

Introduction

Describe a time when you felt like you needed a fresh start. Were you given the opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start over?

Read John 3:1-21

What are some of the things that we can gather about Nicodemus from v1-2?

Pharisee of the Ruling council = Member of Jewish governing body with both spiritual and political power. Also respected as a religion professor.

Afraid for his reputation - came at night

Teachable and curious

Jesus initial response does not seem to go with the flow of the conversation. Why would he respond as he did?

He saw through to the real needs of Nicodemus and began to talk about them.

Compare Nicodemus' and Jesus' ideas of what 'Born Again' means.

Note: If there are questions about v13-14, the account of the bronze snake is found in Numbers 21:4-9. Be familiar with it, but don't jump into it unless necessary (due to time considerations).

According to Jesus, what is his identity and purpose? v16-17

Actually, Jesus doesn't identify Himself as the Son of Man, nor as the Son of God in this passage. If this someone points this out, then look at John 9:35-39, where he identifies Himself as the Son of Man. It should be clear in the 3:16 passage that the Son of Man and Son of God are the same. If this is still a problem, look at John 10:32-38, where Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of Man.

How is it that one can gain eternal life?

If a person truly believes something, how is it reflected in his life?

What does a person's lifestyle if he truly believes in Jesus and follows him?

If their thoughts are way off on this question, you may wish to challenge them to read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7 during the week.

What happens to those who do not believe in Jesus?

What do light and dark represent in these verses?

What must people do to come into the light?

You may wish to refer to John 14:6 at this point.

Why don't people in the darkness move to the light?

Where are you in your search for the truth?

[Note: This lesson needs to be rewritten. Jesus doesn't specifically claim to be the Son of God in this passage. He merely states that the Son of God is the one through whom salvation is gotten.

Some other verses possibly useful for this are:

John 9:35-41 -- Jesus claims that he the "Son of Man"

John 10:34-39 -- Jesus claims to be the "Son of God"

John 14:1-14 -- Jesus is in the Father, and the Father in Jesus. referencing Father to God, this implies that Jesus is the Son of God

John 7:43-51 -- Jesus acknowledges being Son of God

Jesus explains everything
(if only we could understand it)

John 3:1-21

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

Introduction

What does the phrase "born again" mean to you?

Read John 3:1-21

What are some of the things that we can gather about Nicodemus from v1-2?

Pharisee of the Ruling council = Member of Jewish governing body with both spiritual and political power. Also respected as a religion professor.

Afraid for his reputation - came at night

Teachable and curious

Compare Nicodemus' and Jesus' ideas of what 'Born Again' means in vv 4-8

Re: vv13-14, the account of the bronze snake is in Numbers 21:4-9.

(Try and ignore vv 9-13, and the details of Spirit-moving until after the study is done. It's confusing, and not obviously helpful)

According to Jesus, what is his identity and purpose? v14-17

v15 all who believe may have eternal life

v 16 all who believe in Him have eternal life, and not perish

v17 not come to judge; came that the world can be saved through Him

Actually, Jesus doesn't identify Himself as the Son of Man, nor as the Son of God in this passage. If this someone points this out, then look at John 9:35-39, where he identifies Himself as the Son of Man. It should be clear in the 3:16 passage that the Son of Man and Son of God are the same. If this is still a problem, look at John 10:32-38, where Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of Man.

How can you get eternal life?

What happens if you don't get eternal life? (v 16)

What does this tell you about eternal life?

Jesus talks about judgment in the next several verses (vv 18-21). He says that those who believe are not judged, but those who do not believe have been judged already.

Why are they judged?

What is the judgment?

What does this tell you about eternal life?

What do you think of this?

Note: Jesus doesn't specifically claim to be the Son of God in this passage. He merely states that the Son of God is the one we must believe to get eternal life.

Some useful verses possibly are:

Mark 2:10, John 9:35-41 -- Jesus claims that he the "Son of Man"

John 10:34-39 -- Jesus claims to be the "Son of God"

John 14:1-14 -- Jesus is in the Father, and the Father in Jesus. referencing Father to God, this implies that Jesus is the Son of God

John 7:43-51 -- Jesus acknowledges being Son of God

Jesus Heals

Mark 1:40-2:12 & Mark 12:28-31

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

What types of people do you try to avoid?

If you were to give humans 2 great commands, what would they be?

Read Mark 1:40-45

What do you notice about the attitude of the leper toward Jesus?

Lepers were social outcasts in that society. If they came into the midst of others, they had to cover their face and yell "Unclean!! Unclean!!" People certainly wouldn't touch a leper -- for fear of also getting leprosy.

What does v41 say about Jesus' concern for the whole person?

What does the result in v42 say about Jesus' power?

How did the people in Capernaum respond to Jesus' reputation?

Background

Jesus has gotten some of the 12 disciples at this point. He has traveled to Capernaum and then all around Galilee, teaching and speaking with people. He has now returned to Capernaum.

Read Mark 2:1-12

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was then taken to Egypt to wait out Herod. His family returned to Israel after Herod died, and went to Nazareth, in Galilee. Now, at this point in the story, Capernaum is considered home.

Imagine you are in the building where Jesus was speaking. Describe the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions of the atmosphere in there

What extreme lengths were the friends willing to go in order to get the paralytic to Jesus?

What does this tell you about their attitude toward Jesus?

Judging by Jesus reaction, what did he see as the paralytics greatest need?

Does all of humankind have this need?

Do you have this need?

What does that mean to have your sins forgiven?

Why were the teachers of the law irritated by what Jesus said?

By claiming to have the power to forgive all of man's sins, who was Jesus claiming to be?

In v9 Jesus asks a rhetorical question, "Which is easier to say..." Of the two options, which will be easier to see whether it came true or not?

Does this passage lead you to believe Jesus does have the authority to forgive sins?

Transition

Many of us think that we do not need forgiveness for sins because we have never murdered anyone or stolen too much or slept with someone's spouse. However, when we really take a close look at ourselves and God's commands, we realize that we fall way short of God's standards for our lives. Let's take a look at a couple of those commands.

Read Mark 12:28-31

What are the 2 commandments Jesus gives?

What would a person's life be like if he followed these wholly?

Can you say that you have followed these all your life? All of last year? All of last week?

Certainly all have sinned and Jesus saw forgiving people as his greatest mission on earth. During the next wee try to keep in mind the 2 great commandments and keep track of how your life compares with them.

Where do you stand with this?

Jesus' Mission Fulfilled

Various Verses

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

[consider splitting this up into two lessons -- it is a bit long]

You may wish to review the challenge given at the end of last week if you studied Mark 12.

This study is different from the past lessons because it uses many more passages. You may wish to explain this to the group before you begin.

Read Mark 8:31-33

If the group asks about Jesus calling Peter "Satan", explain that Satan wanted to get in the way of God's ultimate plan (Jesus' crucifixion). Peter was Satan incarnate, nor possessed by him, but rather Peter was saying things more in line with Satan's plan than God's

Did Jesus indicate that he was going to be killed?

Did he try to avoid this death?

What can you conclude so far about Jesus' mission?

If this is not clear to the group, it may be good to explain that somehow Jesus' mission is related to His death and that is why he never tried to avoid this destiny. The specifics will become clear as we continue the study.

Read John 19:30-34 (also Mark 15:37-41 if the study is going quickly)

Were both Christ's followers as well as those who rejected his claims able to verify the fact of Jesus' death?

Name some of the witnesses there.

Read Romans 5:6-9 (also Romans 3:21-26 if the study is going quickly)

Why did Jesus die?

Transition

Jesus' followers made the incredible claim that they saw him after he rose from the dead. The reactions to this claim were as varied in their day as they are today. (Some threw those who believed this to the lions and others were willing to be thrown to the lions!) Let's take a look at the historical accounts of these claims.

Read John 20:24-29 (also John 24:36-43 is the study is going quickly)

Do people claim to have seen Jesus after he died?

Do they claim that they saw a spirit or a flesh-and-bones person?

How is this verified?

Are these people claiming to have seen Jesus resurrected from the dead?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Why did Jesus die?

Do you believe Jesus died for your sins and was raised from the dead?

Where do you stand with this?

When confronted with such an abundance of evidence for the resurrection, many skeptics will challenge the reliability of the New Testament. If you think this may become an issue, prepare to defend the reliability of the NT in a discussion after the study. If nobody challenges its reliability, there is no need to bring it up.

Following Jesus

Luke 9:18-26 & 18:18-30

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

If you asked the average person "Who do you think Jesus is?", what would they say? (A good teacher? A lunatic? A myth? The Son of God?)

Read Luke 9:18-26

Who did the crowds in Jesus' day say that he was?

Who do you think he is?

What does Jesus say will happen to him in the future?

Did he ever seem to try and avoid these events?

In Jesus' day, the cross was a symbol of suffering, pain, and even death. Describe in your own words what Jesus is calling his followers to in v21.

What do you think Jesus means in v24? What kind of life is he talking about?

You have probably heard the statement, "You can't take it with you." How does Jesus' question in v25 amplify this idea?

According to Jesus, can a Christian keep his beliefs a secret? What happens if he does?

In this passage Jesus requires his disciples to both believe something and to take some action. Summarize these.

Transition

Following Jesus is certainly a radical pursuit. Jesus asks us to be willing to give up everything to follow him and to not be ashamed about it. Let's take a look now at how Jesus interacted with a man who wanted eternal life, but loved something else more than Jesus.

Read Luke 18:18-30

What did the ruler think was necessary to inherit eternal life?

Was the ruler a very moral man? Was his level of morality sufficient to earn eternal life?

Was the man willing to give up everything to follow Jesus? Which did he love more: his money or Jesus?

Why is it difficult for rich people to get into heaven? Is it impossible?

Peter says that the disciples were willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. Does he suggest that they live a miserable life if they give up everything?

What kind of life will they have here on earth? How about in heaven?

What would be the most difficult thing to give up in order to follow Jesus?

Note that Jesus does not always ask us to give up our most important things to follow him, but we must be willing to give up these things. Jesus will ask you to give up anything that is sinful, or gets in the way of following him.

Where do you stand with this?

Originals

After going through the above studies, I found that there were four basic questions which an unsaved person wants answered. These questions are:

- 1) Why do we need salvation?
- 2) How do we get it?
- 3) What's in it for me?
- 4) What's the cost?

The following four studies give some answers to these questions.

Why do we need salvation?

Romans 1:18-32

According to the author, Paul:

Is mankind aware of God and his qualities? v18-

How has man regarded God?

How has man behaved?

What does man deserve? v32

Romans 3:9-20

How good is mankind?

Can we be saved by obeying the law?

If necessary, See Exodus 19:1-8 for the 10 Commandments -- the basis of the law

Read Mark 12:28-30

Have you fully, completely, incessantly lived out these two laws?

Read Romans 3:21-26

Are righteousness and justification achieved through obedience to the law?

Why did God present Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement? v25 (He demands justice!)

Does God require justice?

Where do you stand with all of this?

How do I get it?

It is helpful to have a map of the region to point out the locations mentioned.

Jesus had been speaking to large crowds, probably in Bethsaida. While there, Jesus had feed a large group of them. He and his disciples then quietly left for the other side of the Sea of Galilee, at Capernaum. The crowds eventually found him once again.

Read John 6:25-40

According to Jesus, why have the crowds followed him? v25-26

What sort of food should they endeavor for? v25-26

Where can you get it?

How can you get it?

What does Jesus say he is? v25

What are the implications of this claim -- who does he thus claim to be? v27-35

As the Son of Man, the Son of God, and the one who comes from heaven, what does Jesus offer to the world? v27, 33, 35-40

Why does he say he does this? v37-38

Read John 11:17-27

What is resurrection?

What does Jesus claim to be?

What are the implications of this claim?

Who is Jesus claiming to be?

Where do you stand with this?

What's in it for me?

What do you desire? What are your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and desires?

What does Jesus offer, state as being given, or desire for us to have?

What are the "good words" - the "warm fuzzy" things that are good to have?

<u>Verse</u>	<u>The Goods</u>
John 3:16	eternal life
John 4:10-14	living water, never thirst again
John 6:27	bread of life
John 10:11-18	life, protection, knowledge of Christ
John 15:5-17	love, what we desire, bear fruit, friendship, joy
John 17:20-23	unity, glory
Romans 3:21-26	righteousness, atonement, justification, grace
Romans 5:1-11	peace, joy, Holy Spirit, love, salvation from God's wrath, perseverance, character, hope
Romans 6:1-4	new life
Romans 6:5-7	freedom from sin, united with God
xRomans 6:14	grace, freedom from sin
xRomans 6:23	eternal life
xRomans 8:9-13	Spirit filled life, new physical life, strength to put away sin
Romans 8:37-39	love, security
x1 Cor 12:12-20	unity, equality, purpose, use
x2 Cor 4:16-18	long term viewpoint
2 Cor 5:17	new creation
Gal 5:16-23	freedom from sin, fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness
Phil 4:4-9	peace, noble goals, God with us

x = verses cut out in final preparation, but still considered useful.

Are the things you need/desire offered by God? Do these things offer fulfillment?

Have you fully, completely, incessantly lived out these two laws?

Where do you stand with all of this?

What does God desire of me?

Read Luke 14:28-30 -- Jesus states that we must indeed count the cost of serving him.

<u>The Cost</u>	<u>The Verse</u>
- A commitment to God and Christ:	
*love God	Mark 12:28-31
love God	John 4:21-24
pray	Matt 6:9-13
- A commitment to community:	
*unsaved community	Matt 28:16-20
*Christian body	Acts 2:42-47
	Matt 12:28-30
	Acts 4:32-37
	Heb 10:25
- A commitment to self:	
*repent	Luke 5:31-32
*live a new life	Matt 5:48
*baptism	Matt 28:18-20
*personal sacrifice	Acts 2:42-27
*self denial	Luke 14:25-33
repent	Matt 4:17, Matt 11:20-24
live a new life	Luke 7:36:48
baptism	Acts 2:41
personal sacrifice	Acts 4:32-37
self denial	9:23-26

* = passages I actually used; the rest were rejected for the sake of brevity of lesson.

Where do you stand with all of this?

I covered these passages briefly and made sure my friend agreed that the text stated what I was pointing out. I would then elaborate on each one a bit, bringing out details which would not be evident without studying more in depth otherwise. For example, being committed to the Christian body has the direct consequence of going to church regularly; personal sacrifice involves out time, money, relationships, career, and thoughts. Living a new life involves putting to death the deeds of the flesh and replacing them with the great wealth of positive things that God desires us to be doing.

Jesus Heals

Mark 2:1-12

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

If you could do any one thing for a crippled man, what would it be? Why?

Background

Jesus has gotten some of the 12 disciples at this point. He has traveled to Capernaum and then all around Galilee, teaching and speaking with people. He has now returned to Capernaum.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was then taken to Egypt to wait out Herod. His family returned to Israel after Herod died, and went to Nazareth, in Galilee. Now, at this point in the story, Capernaum is considered home.

Read Mark 2:1-12

Imagine you are in the building where Jesus was speaking. Describe the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions of the atmosphere in there.

Where is everyone's attention focused?

What are the people's attitudes towards Jesus?

What extreme lengths were the friends willing to go in order to get the paralytic to Jesus?

What does this tell you about their attitude toward Jesus?

Judging by Jesus reaction, what did he see as the paralytic's greatest need?

Do people today have this same need?

In what way?

What does it mean to have your sins forgiven?

Why were the teachers of the law upset?

What was the implication of Jesus' presumption that He could forgive a man's sins?

"Teachers of the law" -- Those who taught the Jewish law; both secular and religious law. See Mark 1:22. Jesus teaches in the synagogue and is compared to a teacher of the law.

By claiming to have the power to forgive all of man's sins, who was Jesus claiming to be?

In v9 Jesus asks a rhetorical question, "Which is easier to say..." Of the two options, which will be easier to see whether it came true or not?

Does this action show Jesus to have the power and authority to forgive sins?

Does this passage lead you to believe Jesus does have the authority to forgive sins?

Note: Jesus rather clearly labels Himself as Son of Man here.

Jesus Responds to Suffering

Mark 1:40-45

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

What group(s) of people are shunned or avoided by the rest of society today?

Read Mark 1:40-45

What do you notice about the attitude of the leper toward Jesus?

Lepers were social outcasts in that society. If they came into the midst of others, they had to cover their face and yell "Unclean!! Unclean!!" [being unclean kept a man from the service of the sanctuary and from fellowship with his co-religionists.] People certainly wouldn't touch a leper -- for fear of also getting leprosy.

What does v41 say about Jesus' concern for the whole person?

What do Jesus' commands to the leper in vv43-44 show about His motives and concerns for the leper?

He is concerned about the leper's spiritual and physical state.

What does the leper's response indicate about his regard towards Jesus?

Where does Jesus' concern for suffering seem to come from? (a desire for fame-and-fortune, public acclaim, for people to hear and understand His message, or for some mixture of these?)

What does Jesus most care about?

people - their physical and spiritual needs

lastly about public acclamation

Questions that came up:

Q What does "leprosy" mean in the Bible

A Leprosy: The word used in the Old Testament is a simple, non-specific word lacking the precision of the modern medical term for leprosy (*Mycobacterium leprae*). It generally describes "ritualistic uncleanness or defilement characterized by the presence of coloured patches. The same word was used to describe human skin diseases, discolouration of wool, leather, linen, and even the walls of houses. . . . The evidence for uncleanness, on which the diagnoses was based, depended on the presence of depigmented (pale) patches on the human skin . . . Some of the features described in Leviticus 13-14 do not occur in leprosy and some suggest other conditions such as erysipelas adjacent to a boil, infection following a burn, ringworm, etc..." (New Bible Dictionary, 2nd Ed., IVP 1993, p459)

Q What is the "offer for your sacrifices what Moses commanded" stuff talking about?

A If a leper was healed (by whatever means), he was to be inspected by the priest, and if it were true, sacrifices were made, and the leper allowed back into society. (note: the society when this was written was a camp society in the wilderness; they weren't in a city or town)

Lev. 13:43-46 - extreme case of isolation for leper

Lev. 14:1-4 - If the leper is healed the priest the the sacrifices.

Lev 14:8 - the ex-leper is allowed back into society

Lev 14:11 - seems to indicate the man is allowed back to public worship

A bold claim from Jesus

John 11:17-27

Note: Although we are reading most of the chapter, the questions only really concern 11:25-27

Read John 11:1-27

What is the gist of the story?

Lazarus died. Jesus arrives 4 days later. He speaks with Mary and Martha.

What is resurrection?

The act of rising again from the dead

What does Jesus claim to be? (v25)

Who does Martha say that Jesus is? (v27)

If Jesus' claim about Himself is true, does she make a good assessment?

What are the implications of His claim? Who is Jesus claiming to be?

If His claim is true, does it have any significance for your life?

Background:

Martha: Luke 10:38; Mary's sister

Mary: John 12:1-8, Martha's sister, not mother of Jesus

Following Jesus

Luke 9:18-26

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

If you asked the average person "Who do you think Jesus is?", what would they say? (A good teacher? A lunatic? A myth? The Son of God?)

Read Luke 9:18-26

Who did the crowds in Jesus' day say that he was?

Who do you think he is?

What does Jesus say will happen to him in the future?

Did he ever seem to try and avoid these events?

In Jesus' day, the cross was a symbol of suffering, pain, and even death. Describe in your own words what Jesus is calling his followers to in v21.

What do you think Jesus means in v24? What kind of life is he talking about?

You have probably heard the statement, "You can't take it with you." How does Jesus' question in v25 amplify this idea?

According to Jesus, can a Christian keep his beliefs a secret? What happens if he does?

In this passage Jesus requires his disciples to both believe something and to take some action. Summarize these.

The End of the Story
Mark 15:24-41 & Luke 24:36-43

What are the attitudes of people towards a man about to be executed.

How would the man likely react to a shouting, taunting crowd?

Read Mark 15:24-41

What were the attitudes of the crowd towards Jesus?

How did he react to the crowd's accusations and taunts?

What was his final response to their mockery of his supposed deity?

Were both Christ's followers as well as those who rejected his claims able to verify the fact of Jesus' death?

Name some of the witnesses there.

Mary Magdalene - Luke 8:2

Transition:

Jesus closest followers have gathered after his death. Two more have just joined the group after a very interesting journey, and they are talking about it.

Read Luke 24:33-43 (also John 20:24-29 & John 24:36-43 if the study is going quickly)

What happens while they were telling about their journey? What is their reaction to this startling event?

What did Jesus do to calm them?

If you asked them what they experienced, what do you think they would say? Would they claim to have seen the flesh-and-bones person of Jesus? Would they claim to have seen Jesus resurrected from the dead?

What is the significance of someone being resurrected?

Bread of Life

John 6

The passage for this week's discussion is significantly longer than the passages we've talked about previously. To be able to discuss any significant portion of it, I need you to read it before hand, and spend some time thinking about what it says. Although the portion of interest is the "Bread of Life" discourse in the middle, I encourage you to read all of chapter six, for context. To help you (I hope), I've given some general questions about some key topics in the passage. Hopefully you can take some time to think about these questions (and maybe even write down your thoughts). I think this will help us have a much more interesting lunch-time discussion.

- Dave.

Before reading the section, think about these questions:

Why do people follow someone as a leader?

What might they stop following him?

What does the phrase mean to you: "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.." (v33)

Read all of John 6 (for context), paying special attention to John 6:22-59:

What sort of following does Jesus have at the beginning of chapter 6? Why are his followers interested in him?

Who and/or what does Jesus claim to be?

What does he offer?

How can his offer be accepted?

What is the significance of this to mankind? What is the significance of this to you?

Based on what he says, what is Jesus' relation with God?

If his claims of identity are true, what does that imply for your belief system?

What happens to Jesus' following after his dialog with the Jews? Why did that happen?

My Notes on John 6:

- v27 Don't work for food which perishes.
work for the food which endures
Son of Man shall give you this food
on the Son of Man the Father, even God, has placed his seal.
- v29 Work of God = believe in the one he sent
- v31 The Jews ask for a sign, as their father's received from Moses (CF Ex 14:6)
- v32 that sign came from God, not from Moses
- v33 God gave the true bread of heaven
bread of God = that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world
- v34 Give us this bread!
I am the bread of life, says Jesus
Jesus=bread of life=bread of God=comes down from heaven=gives life to world
he who comes to me shall not hunger
he who believes in me shall never thirst
- v36 I've told you who I am but you don't believe
All whom the Father gives shall come
I won't reject any who come
I came down from heaven to do the will of my sender
- v40 Will of my Father: eternal life for all who believe in the son
Jesus will raise him up on the last day
God gave bread of life=God gave Jesus=Father sent Jesus=
God is Jesus' sender=Jesus does God's will=Jesus does Father's will
- v42 Jews annoyed that 'kid-next-door' claims to be the bread-of-heaven
- v44 no one comes to Jesus but those who Father draws; Jesus will raise him
- v45 all who've heard and learned from the Father comes to Jesus
no one has seen the Father except Jesus
- v47 he who believes has eternal life
I am the bread of life
eat manna-> still die; eat of the living bread -> live forever
bread Jesus gives is his flesh
- v52 Jews argue about how Jesus can give his flesh to eat
- v53 must eat Jesus' flesh
must drink Jesus' blood
do this -> have eternal life; Jesus raises you up; v56 abides in you and you in him
don't -> no life in yourself
- v60 "This is a difficult teaching" - Jews
"These are spiritual words" - Jesus
- v66 many of his disciples withdraw
the 12 still follow and acknowledge him to be the Christ

Rational Faith

John 10:22-38, John 20:19-29

(**For study:** bring colored pencils/paper. Have everyone draw a picture of 'faith' and explain it)

Before reading the verses, answer these questions:

What does "faith" mean to you?

Does this description fit your definition of faith, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrew 11:1)

In what people, objects, and/or events do you have faith?

Read John 10:22-38:

"I have called you gods" v34 - Psalm 82:6

stoning v33 - Deut 13:9

Christ = Messiah v24 - Dan 9:25-26

A group of Jews have gathered around Jesus, asking him to clarify whether or not he is the Christ (Messiah: main title of central figure of expectation by Jews).

According to Jesus, why haven't they believed his verbal testimony (vv25-30)

What other evidence does Jesus provide to support his verbal testimony? (34-38)

What kind of belief does Jesus ask of people?

Read John 20:19-29:

upper room v19 - Acts 1:13

After his crucifixion the disciples were gathered in a home of a fellow believer.

What evidence of Jesus' resurrection was given to his disciples? (vv19-23)

How did Thomas respond to the other disciples' claims of having seen Jesus? (24-25) Do you think his response was a reasonable one? Why or why not?

What did Jesus do in response to Thomas' doubts? (26-29) Did Jesus think Thomas' response had been a reasonable one? (*He responded to it, so it was within His will. But, His response wasn't immediate. It took a week.*)

What kind of faith does Jesus expect people to have?

Do you empathize with Thomas' stubbornness/resistance to believing in the resurrection of Jesus? How so?

What kind of faith does Jesus expect of people? Is this an irrational faith? An unjustified faith? A faith based on evidence? A faith based on reason?

What do you think it would take to convince you of Jesus' claims?

Sermon on the Mount: Murder, Adultery
Matthew 5:20-30

We've been doing "Who Jesus is" and talking about his claims of identity. This was sort of a theory section. It's time to get a little empirical evidence. To that end, I'd like to go through the passages known as the "Sermon on the Mount." Here, Jesus talks about human behavior and gives some very applicable "morality" lessons. The passages are short, but I have a lot of (similar) questions for them. I'd rather spend a lot of time on one issue, than do all three superficially. So, if this is too long to do, concentrate on the first section.

-dave

Before reading the verses, answer these questions:

In matters of morality, what's more important, a person's actions or attitude? Why?

What constitutes murder?

What constitutes adultery?

(I suggest reading Matthew 4:23-7:29 to get the context of the passage we're talking about.)

Read Matthew 7:24-27:

What is Jesus implying about the importance of his teachings?

Is the same amount of importance we credit to the moral teachings we hear today (from, say, preachers, ethics professors, public service announcements)?

Read Matthew 5:20-26:

What constitutes murder?

What was the basic law on murder then? Is this similar to our basic law today?

What else does Jesus make tantamount to murder? Does our society view these offenses as seriously as Jesus does? Can you think of any time when you would have been guilty according to this teaching?

On whom does Jesus place the burden of responsibility of reconciliation when two people are at odds? Does our society have the same opinion? Do you seek reconciliation when someone has something against you?

What would our country be like if everyone obeyed this teaching? What would it take for people to follow this measure of morality?

I challenge you to try and observe this teaching in the next week.

Read Matthew 5:27-30:

What constitutes adultery?

What was the basic law on adultery then? Is this similar to our basic law today?

What else does Jesus make equal to adultery? Does our society view this action/attitude as seriously as Jesus does?

Can you think of a time when you would be guilty of adultery under this definition?

How seriously does Jesus view this sin? According to Jesus, how seriously should we try to avoid it? How seriously do you try to avoid this?

What would our nation be like if everyone obeyed this teaching? What would it take for people to follow this measure of morality?

I challenge you to try and observe this teaching in the next week.

Concluding thoughts:

Are these teachings relevant to your life? In what ways?

How would your life be different if you attempted to follow these teachings?

Would following these teachings bring improvement or deterioration to your moral condition?

Sermon on the Mount: Divorce, Vows
Matthew 5:31-37

We're currently discussing the section commonly known as the "Sermon on the Mount". We've done Murder and Adultery, now for Divorce and Vows. Like the other topics, I think these are fairly straight-forward teachings, with significant implications. I'd like to concentrate our discussion on what it means to implement these teachings. If you have time, read through passages, and give them some thought before we meet (Thursday, 12-1)

Read Matthew 7:24-27: (a reminder of Jesus' attitude towards his teachings)

How important did Jesus think his teachings were?

Do we credit the same amount of importance to the moral teachings we hear today?

Divorce

What have been the effects of divorce on our society?

How has divorce affected your life?

Read Matthew 5:31-32:

What is divorce? What does it take to get a divorce today?

From the brief mention of it, does it seem the Jewish law on divorce was about the same as ours now?

What grounds does Jesus allow for divorce? How does this compare to current practice?

According to Jesus, what is the result of divorce on insufficient grounds?

What would your life be like if people/society seriously considered this teaching before getting married? What would it take for people to follow this measure of morality?

Vows

How much is a person's word (or a verbal agreement) worth today? Why is this so?

Read Matthew 5:33-37

From what Jesus says about how *not* to make an oath, what do you think the common practice for making promises was then? How does this compare to today's practice?

In contrast to that, how does Jesus teach to make a vow?

What does that imply about the person making the vow? Or about the trust given by the recipient of the promise?

Would our lives be different if people generally make reliable promises this way? How so?

God/Man Duality of Jesus
Man

Opening:

There are three issues to this Duality, that I am aware of so far: showing that Jesus is man; showing that Jesus is God; and the inherent 'tension' in having the power of God in the life of a human.

Today we will talk about the Jesus being a human being.

Ask them for the characteristics of being human. Given those, find verses that show Jesus possessing those characteristics.

Characteristic	Verse
born of human	Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7
has a family	Matt 1:18-25, 13:55; Mark 3:31; Luke 2:1-7
eats and drinks	Mark 3:20; Luke 5:29-32; John 2:1-3
has friends	Luke 5:29-32; John 2:1-3
has a value system	Matt 5-8
suffering	Matt 26:36-46, 26:67-68, 27:35, 27:46; Mark 15:15-23; Luke 23:26; John 19:17-18
dies	Matt 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 24:36; John 23:46

Also, note the historical aspect of his humanity: it is a historical fact (AFAIK) that Jesus was a human and that he lived and died. One simple witness to this is a dictionary:

Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, Chronology of Major Dates in History
1992 Barnes and Nobles, Inc., p1667

8-4BC Jesus of Nazareth is born

c29[AD] Jesus is crucified. The order is given by the Roman procurator of Judea, Pontius Pilate.

God/Man Duality of Jesus God (1/2)

Opening:

Last week we discussed the humanity of Jesus. We determined several characteristics of a human, at looked at several passages that illustrated those traits in Jesus. However, since there is no doubt that Jesus was a man, that was simple. Today we start the more interesting part: determine how we would identify some entity as God, and then look to see if there is any reason to believe that Jesus, then, is God.

Question:

How to you know something to be God?

It claims to be God.

It shows the power appropriate to being God.

Note:

Gods often took human appearance in: Greek Mythology, Fantasy Novels, Movies, and AD&D. God must have power. I don't accept a wimpy deity as God. That's just a really strong creature. Also, even though an entity seems to possess the power of God, I would not think we have any reason to consider it so unless it made claim to Godhood.

Is there any reason to consider Jesus God?

Case 1

What is sin?

Is it real?

Have people committed actions that are sinful?

Under what circumstances does some have the authority to forgive sin?

Read Mark 2:1-12

Why were the teachers of the law upset?

What was the implication of Jesus' presumption that He could forgive a man's sins?

"Teachers of the law" -- Those who taught the Jewish law, both secular and religious. See Mark 1:22.

By claiming to have the power to forgive all of man's sins, who was Jesus claiming to be?

In v9 Jesus asks a rhetorical question, "Which is easier to say..." Of the two options, which will be easier to see whether it came true or not?

Did Jesus:

a) make any claim to being God?

b) show any Godlike power?

God/Man Duality of Jesus
God (2/2)

Case 2

How long is life?

What do you think the phrase "you will live, even if you die" means?

Read John 11:17-27

vv23-26 What is Jesus claiming here?

To make a claim like that, who must Jesus think he is?

Who, then, could he be?

v26 If Jesus' claim about Himself is true, does Martha make a good assessment?

Read John 11:32-44

vv39, 43-44 Does Jesus possess sufficient power to justify his claim?

Background Info:

Martha: Luke 10:38; Mary's sister

Mary: John 12:1-8, Martha's sister, not mother of Jesus

Scripture References

	Claims to Be God		Shows Power of God
Mark 2:1-12	(I) forgives sin	Mark 2:1-12	(E) heals paralytic
John 11:21-27	(I) claims to be resurrection and life	John 11:43-44	(E) resurrects Lazarus
John 11:40-42	(E) prays that Father would show people that God sent him		
Luke 9:18-22	(I) Peter calls Jesus the Christ		
Mark 8:27-30	(E) Jesus acknowledges being King of the Jews		
Mark 15:1-2	" "		
Matt 27:11	" "		
Matt 26:63-65	(E) Son of God		
John 9:35-37	(E) Son of Man		
John 6:27, 33, 35	(E) Jesus is bread of life		
John 6:35-46	(I) from Father, raise people up		
John 6:47-58	(I) bread of life; gives eternal life		
John 8:58-59	(I) I am		
c.f. Ex 3:13-15			
Matt 26:39	(I) Prays to the Father		
Matt 26:45-46	(I) Son of Man		
John 14:6	(I) No one comes to the Father...		
John 10:30	(E) I and the Father are one		
John 26:63-65	(E) Son of God, Christ	Luke 13:10-17	(E) Heals crippled woman
		John 9	(E) Heals man born blind
		John 20:24-28	(E) Resurrected
		Matt 28:5-8	" "
		Luke 3:21-22	(E) God identifies Jesus
(E) = Explicit	(I) = Implicit, Inferable		

Father

Matt 5:16	Father who is in heaven
Matt 7:21	Father has control over those who enter to heaven
Matt 11:25	Father, Lord of heaven and earth
John 2:16	The temple is the Father's house

God/Man Duality of Jesus Claims of Christ

Opening Comments

I want to look at four different events and consider both how Jesus spoke of himself, and how others spoke of Jesus. I want to keep track of the various labels, titles, and claims given to Jesus. After we've looked at the different passages, we want to see what the overall conclusion regarding who Jesus said he was.

1) Mark 2:1-12

Claims - Forgives sins (infer that he claims to be God)

Note: Jesus affirms the authorities. He doesn't rebuke them for misunderstanding what he was claiming. Two counterpoints to this are: John 3:10, Luke 13:10-17. There, Jesus clearly tells the persons when they are misunderstanding.

2) John 11:20-27

Claims God gives to Jesus whatever Jesus asks

Jesus gives eternal life

resurrection and life

Christ (means Messiah, or Lord)

Son of God

He who comes into the world

3) John 26:63-65

Claims Son of God

Christ

4) John 10:22-33

Claims Christ (rhetorical answer to a question)

gives eternal life

I and the Father are one

Jews understand him to be claiming to be God

I think that Jesus affirms the Jews understanding in what follows (v34ff), but it could be a bit tricky, so don't jump in there unless the group requires it.

'blaspheme' - to speak impiously or irreverently of (God or sacred things)

In total, what is Jesus claiming, both directly and through affirmation of other peoples' statements?

Is he claiming equality with God?

God/Man Duality of Jesus Tension

Opening Questions

What sort of tensions do you think might arise in a man who is both human and divine?

Why?

How might he make the choice to use his human abilities, or his divine abilities?

Comments

What is the tension of the God/Man Duality of Christ? I'm not really sure.

Possible aspects:

- How human is Jesus (as God)?
- How divine is Jesus (as a man)?
- How can God inhabit a physical body?
- The tension between having omnipotence, and living within human constraints.

Let's consider the power issue. Jesus had the power of God and yet refrained from using it at times. So, let's look at some passages, and ask some questions about them.

Questions

What options or choices is Jesus faced with? How could his power be helpful?

Which way did he choose: to use power or to refrain?

Why did he make this choice?

What does that indicate about his mission, person, message?

Verses

Matt	4:1-11	temptation in desert
Mark	1:29-39	healing people, then leaving town
Matt	26:26-46	prays in garden of Gethsemene
	26:47-56	betrayl
	27:26-31	beaten and mocked
	27:45-50	crucified and died

Other verses

John 19:1-11	Jesus is tried, falsely accused, and brutalized.
Luke 22:32-39	crucified, mocked, naked, agony.
John 11:1-35	death and resurrection of Lazarus.

God/Man Duality of Jesus

How can Jesus be God and yet also be man if man is inherently sinful?

I don't know! But...

Wave/Particle duality. How can something be both particle and wave? We don't know. Does our lack of understanding make it any less so? No.

We observe geometrical ray behavior of light and say it is a particle/ray.

We observe interference effects of light and say it is a wave.

Our observations show us what **is**, even though we don't understand **why** or **how**.

Note: we observe the photon. We could be misinterpreting.

Jesus:

He ate, drank, and was merry. He lived and died. We say that he was a man.

He claimed to forgive sins, said he was the means to reach God, and got himself resurrected. Sounds like he was claiming divinity.

He showed sufficient characteristics of both man and God to be characterized as both, and so we conclude he was indeed both.

I don't know the "how", but regardless, I see what "is"

Could we be misinterpreting his actions? this is possible, except that Jesus spoke and confirmed several things. This is as if the photon spoke and said, "You're right. I am both a particle and a wave."

verses:

The Gospel Message

In Short

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

A Bit More

Rom 1:18-20, 28-32 (the problem)

Rom 3:21-26 (the solution)

A Longer Version

All men have sinned (rebelled against God) and so we are separated from Him:

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:22 then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- therefor the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

Exodus 19:5-8 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' ... So Moses came and called the leaders of the people, and set them before them all these words which the Lord had commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!"

Deut 28:1-2, 9-11 "Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessing shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the Lord your God. ... The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and walk in His ways. So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.

Deut 30:19-20 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Mark 12:29-31 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is not other commandment greater than these."

Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ...

Jesus claimed divinity:

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

Jesus claimed that forgiveness of sins and eternal life are gained by belief in him.

John 6:47-48 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life."

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

This belief is more than a mere intellectual acceptance of Jesus' existence, admitting that you've rebelled against God, and repenting of that.

Luke 5:31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Other Useful Verses

1 Corinthians 15:12-19	w/o resurrection our faith is worthless
Romans 5:9	saved from wrath of God
2 Cor 5:21	Jesus became sin on our behalf
Luke 3:21-22	voice from heaven says, "This is my son..."
John 20:24-28	resurrection
Matt 28:5-8	resurrection
1 Peter 2:22-24	Christ was w/o sin

1 John 7:21-23	Christ was w/o sin
Matt 7:21-23	must do works of the Father
Matt 7:7-11	seek and you shall find
Matt 25:31-46	heaven and hell

What is treason?

What is the punishment for treason?

What, then, might you expect would be the required punishment for rebellion against God?

Rom 1:18-20, 28-32

According to Paul, is man basically ignorant or knowledgeable about God?

Does man then have any excuse for disregarding God?

What then is the state of man with respect to God if he disregards God?

What does this state lead to?

Rom 3:21-26

What's the basic problem?

What has God given us?

How is it received?

What is required for justice to be served when someone breaks the law?

How is God's justice served by the death of Christ?

How does this satisfaction of justice also provide mercy for us?

Jesus Heals

Mark 2:1-12

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

What is sin? How can it be forgiven?

Background

Jesus has gotten some of the 12 disciples at this point. He has traveled to Capernaum and then all around Galilee, teaching and speaking with people. He has now returned to Capernaum.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was then taken to Egypt to wait out Herod. His family returned to Israel after Herod died, and went to Nazareth, in Galilee. Now, at this point in the story, Capernaum is considered home.

Read Mark 2:1-12

Imagine you are in the building where Jesus was speaking. Describe the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions of the atmosphere in there.

Where is everyone's attention focused?

What are the people's attitudes towards Jesus?

What extreme lengths were the friends willing to go in order to get the paralytic to Jesus?

What does this tell you about their attitude toward Jesus?

Judging by Jesus' reaction, what did he see as the paralytics greatest need?

Do people today have this same need?

In what way?

What does it mean to have your sins forgiven?

Why were the teachers of the law upset?

What was the implication of Jesus' presumption that He could forgive a man's sins?

"Teachers of the law" -- Those who taught the Jewish law; both secular and religious law. See Mark 1:22. Jesus teaches in the synagogue and is compared to a teacher of the law.

By claiming to have the power to forgive all of man's sins, who was Jesus claiming to be?

In v9 Jesus asks a rhetorical question, "Which is easier to say..." Which is easier to say? Of the two options, which is easier to see the results of?

Does this action show Jesus to have the power and authority to forgive sins?

Does this passage lead you to believe Jesus does have the authority to forgive sins?

Note: Jesus rather clearly labels Himself as Son of Man here.

Jesus explains everything
(if only we could understand it)

John 3:1-21

Copied/Adapted from "Will the Real JESUS please stand up?" by Mark E. Ashton (1992)

Introduction

What does the phrase "born again" mean to you?

Read John 3:1-21

What are some of the things that we can gather about Nicodemus from v1-2?

Pharisee of the Ruling council = Member of Jewish governing body with both spiritual and political power. Also respected as a religion professor.

Afraid for his reputation - came at night

Teachable and curious

Compare Nicodemus' and Jesus' ideas of what 'Born Again' means in vv 4-8

Re: vv13-14, the account of the bronze snake is in Numbers 21:4-9.

(Try and ignore vv 9-13, and the details of Spirit-moving until after the study is done. It's confusing, and not obviously helpful)

According to Jesus, what is his identity and purpose? v14-17

v15 all who believe may have eternal life

v 16 all who believe in Him have eternal life, and not perish

v17 not come to judge; came that the world can be saved through Him

Actually, Jesus doesn't identify Himself as the Son of Man, nor as the Son of God in this passage. If this someone points this out, then look at John 9:35-39, where he identifies Himself as the Son of Man. It should be clear in the 3:16 passage that the Son of Man and Son of God are the same. If this is still a problem, look at John 10:32-38, where Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of Man.

How can you get eternal life?

What happens if you don't get eternal life? (v 16)

What does this tell you about eternal life?

Jesus talks about judgment in the next several verses (vv 18-21). He says that those who believe are not judged, but those who do not believe have been judged already.

Why are they judged?

What is the judgment?

What does this tell you about eternal life?

What do you think of this?

Note: Jesus doesn't specifically claim to be the Son of God in this passage. He merely states that the Son of God is the one we must believe to get eternal life.

Some useful verses possibly are:

Mark 2:10, John 9:35-41 -- Jesus claims that he the "Son of Man"

John 10:34-39 -- Jesus claims to be the "Son of God"

John 14:1-14 -- Jesus is in the Father, and the Father in Jesus. referencing Father to God, this implies that Jesus is the Son of God

John 7:43-51 -- Jesus acknowledges being Son of God

The picture we have of heaven

Various passages

Rev 21 - 22:5

This symbolically and metaphorically describes heaven — where eternal life is lived. There are several descriptions which probably have symbolic or prophetic meanings, and I don't know the symbolic meanings. If you find parts confusing, don't worry because you aren't alone.

What do we learn about God?

What do we learn about eternal life?

What is heaven like?

Who is there?

What would it be like to live without mourning, or sadness, or pain?

1 John 3:2

We shall be like Jesus in eternal life

2 Peter 3:10,13

looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth

Heb 12:22-23

joyful assembly; we are made perfect

Why do we need salvation & eternal life?

Romans 1:18-32

According to the author, Paul:

Is man aware of God and His qualities? v19

What has man behaved, in spite of his knowledge of God?

did not glorify nor give thanks, worshipped idols

sexual immorality

became filled with every kind of wickedness

Have you seen these attitudes or actions around you?

Have you seen these attitudes or actions in your own life?

What does a man deserve who behaves like that? v32

God had originally given the Jewish nation a set of laws to follow. He promised them that if they followed them, He would bless them abundantly. Here, Jesus summarizes those rules:

If necessary, See Exodus 19:1-8 for the 10 Commandments -- the basis of the law

Read Mark 12:28-30

Have you completely lived out these two laws?

Do you know of anyone who has?

Is it possible for a person to live so he will be perfect according to God's standards?

If the discussion is going quickly, continue, otherwise stop here.

Romans 6:23

How then can we get eternal life?

Read Romans 3:21-26

Are righteousness and justification achieved through obedience to the law?

Why did God present Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement? v25 (He demands justice!)

Does God require justice?

How to get eternal life
Various passages

Review

Eternal Life is wonderful : Rev 21:1 - 22:5

Get eternal life by believing in Jesus : John 3:14-16 (Jesus = Son of Man : Mark 2:10)

New Stuff

Sin prevents us from getting eternal life on our own

Read Romans 1:18-23, 28-32

Why can't we just have eternal life?

Read Romans 6:23

How can we get eternal life?

What do you think about this?

Would you like more details on salvation?

More info (if needed)

Jesus takes our sins away : Romans 6:23, John 3:16 (Rom 8:1-2; Matt 26:26-29)

Jesus died for our sins : 1 Cor 15:3

SuperPower Stuff 1
Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

Has anyone ever introduced you? What sort of introduction would you like the most?

Read Matthew 3:13-17

John was baptising people - immersing them in water - for repentance. It was a symbolic act. I don't think He had His disciples yet.

What do you think this says about Jesus?

What does this say about God's power?

Have you every fasted? What was it like?

(if not, ask if they have ever struggled with the temptation to do something wrong)

Read Matthew 4:1-11

What would it be like to fast for 40 days?

What were the temptations Jesus faced?

How did He deal with them?

Why do you think He acted as He did?

What does this say about Jesus?

What kind of person was He?

What would it be like if you had that kind of self-control? Would you want it? Do you want it?

A crazy claim from Jesus

John 11:17-27

Note: Although we are reading most of the chapter, the questions only really concern 11:25-27

Read John 11:1-27

What is the gist of the story?

Lazarus died. Jesus arrives 4 days later. He speaks with Mary and Martha.

What is resurrection?

The act of rising again from the dead

What does Jesus claim to be? (v25)

Who does Martha say that Jesus is? (v27)

If Jesus' claim about Himself is true, does she make a good assessment?

What are the implications of His claim? Who is Jesus claiming to be?

If His claim is true, does it have any significance for your life?

Background:

Martha: Luke 10:38; Mary's sister

Mary: John 12:1-8, Martha's sister, not mother of Jesus

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