

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS? MARK 8:27-30

LESSON PREP

In today's culture, Jesus is often viewed as simply a good teacher or a wise sage. People will gladly say that Jesus was a moral guy or a leader of social justice, but declaring that he's the exclusive Savior of the world is too much for many. Students will then be challenged to answer the same question—who do they say Jesus is? Jesus claimed to be the only God. He called his first disciples—and us today—to follow him as Lord. And he taught that a life of discipleship would look radically different, as we grow closer to him. This week, challenge your students to identify clearly who they say Jesus is. If you have any non-Christians in your group, this is a great week to present Jesus as the only hope of salvation and to encourage them to grapple honestly and directly with the question of Christ's identity for themselves.

PRE LG TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

How is Jesus different from every other religious leader? Let's talk about it as a group tonight.

Who is Jesus? It's one of the most profound questions in the history of humanity, and we're grappling with it tonight. Join us!

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

John 14:6

10N1 FOLLOWUP

Assess how consistent his/her devotional life. If weak, walk through ways he/she can value these disciplines more.

INTRODUCTION

There are many different ideas of who Jesus is. Whether you hear the answers from your professors, your parents, your boss or your friends, it is likely that you will hear a vast array of ideas on who Jesus is.

- From your perspective, who is Jesus and why is he important?
- How has your understanding of Jesus changed as you've gotten older?
- How is Jesus different from other religious leaders?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *There are many different ideas of who Jesus is. Whether you hear them from your professors, your parents, your boss or your friends, it is likely that you will hear a vast array of answers. As Jesus was in the middle of his ministry, there were multiple ideas of who he really was. Let's read about who Jesus said he is and how the disciples responded.*

Read Mark 8:27-30

1. Jesus said he was the promised Messiah

- Why do many people in our society struggle with the concept of Jesus being the only way to reach God, the only way to reach heaven?
- How much of a struggle has that been for you—or how much of a struggle is it for you right now?
- What answers have you heard from people when asked who Jesus is?
- When Jesus asked his disciples, point blank, who he was, Peter declared that he was the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One. They recognized that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Why is that important?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus clearly set himself apart from all other religious leaders, saying that he's the only way to God. In a world where truth is so relative, it is crucial for us as disciples to have a clear understanding of who Jesus said he was, why he said it, and what that means for us as Christians. As we continue to dialogue, ask yourself who Jesus Christ is to you.*

2. Jesus calls us to decide who he is to us

- Why did Jesus ask his disciples the question in verse 27? Why was it important that they wrestled with this question personally?
- If you were one of the disciples walking with Jesus in this passage and he turned and asked you the same question, how would you respond?
- Why is it important for us today to identify who Jesus is?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *The most important question we will ever answer is "Who is Jesus Christ to you?" Both the eternal and the present ride on the answer to that question. Again, Jesus is not one of many options you can use to get to heaven; he declared that he's the only way to heaven.*

3. Our view of who Jesus is affects the way we live

- If the disciples believed that Jesus was both the Messiah and the only way to God, how would that impact their lives? Give some practical examples of how they might live differently in light of those truths.
- If we also truly believe that Jesus is Lord, how will that affect the way we live?
- How has believing in Jesus Christ as the only Messiah changed the way you live?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *If we truly believe that Jesus is who he said he is, then it affects everything in our lives. Everything on earth and in eternity hinges on Jesus. As we follow Jesus as his disciples and learn what it means to become "fishers of people," as we discussed in an earlier lesson in this series, no longer can we talk about Jesus as a religious alternative—instead, he is the only hope for our salvation.*

APPLICATION

Think of one friend whose view of Jesus is different from what Scripture declares. What is an effective, respectful way to share with them what we've discussed today? What would be your response to someone who says there are many ways to God?