

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

As we continue this week in our series examining the gospel of John in the New Testament, Pastor Don walks us through chapter 5 to help us understand the astonishing nature of Jesus' claims about Himself and His deity as God's Son. While our popular culture prefers to think of Jesus as only a spiritual teacher and not divine, Jesus Himself consistently stated time and again that He had equal standing with God as His Father and these statements were ultimately proven true by His resurrection. To get your group started, ask everyone if they see themselves becoming more or less like their parents as they get older...

BIG THOUGHT

Jesus consistently claimed equality with God, and His claims were ultimately proven true by the miracles He performed and His own resurrection.

1. The motivation for Jesus to begin sharing His identity with the religious leaders came as a result of a healing He performed in John 5:5-15. How long had the invalid man been at the pool? (v. 5) What did Jesus ask him? And did he really answer Jesus' question? Why or why not? (v. 6-7) According to the religious leaders, what rule did the man break after he was healed? (v. 8-10)
2. Now read v. 11-15. Who does the man blame for getting him in trouble? (v. 11) And what does he do to show that Jesus was correct in warning him to change his ways? (v. 15)
3. Read v. 16-18. Why were the Jewish leaders so upset with Jesus? Now read Leviticus 24:16. What was the Old Testament punishment for blasphemy?

4. Now read v. 19-20. What would you have thought if you were in the crowd that day and heard Jesus clearly challenge the religious leaders by defining His work and His relationship with God in these ways? What about when you heard Jesus' claims in v. 21-23?
5. Read v. 24. How does Jesus' statement here challenge our culture's preferred way of thinking about Him as just a spiritual teacher and not divine? Explain your thoughts.
6. To finish, read v. 31-47. What four confirming "witnesses" does Jesus specifically offer to back up His claims (see verses 33, 36, 37, and 40)? Which of these have been the most helpful for you to make up your own mind about Jesus - other people's testimonies? Jesus' miracles? Feeling God directly? The Bible? Share with the group...

Take it Further

If you've never seriously considered Jesus' claim to be the way for you to restore your relationship with God and have life that lasts forever (John 5:24), right now ask God to give you insight. Also, be sure to read more about Jesus in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), and then talk with a friend who's a believer, too!

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Matthew 17:4-5

Day 4: John 10:30

Day 2: John 14:9

Day 5: Philippians 2:5-7

Day 3: Colossians 2:9

Day 6: Mark 15:39

Memory Verse: John 5:24



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