



Asking for a Friend – Is Jesus Really God? Leader Guide

Jesus is arguably one of the most famous and talked about people of all time. Why do you think this is the case? What makes Jesus so intriguing? Think from both a secular and Christian viewpoint. Good man, great teacher, started world's largest faith movement, etc.

When Jesus came to earth, he was not what his disciples and the religious crowd expected. What did they expect Jesus to be? Political liberator who would rescue them from the grasp of Rome and reestablish the nation of Israel, not a Messiah who would come in and rescue them from their sin and separation from God. **How do we sometimes treat Jesus like his first century followers did?** We want him to do what we want him to do in our life. We look for a liberator and “empower-er” instead of a Lord. Leaders feel free to share a story of how you’ve treated Jesus this way in your life.

During his ministry, Jesus said some pretty outlandish and enlightening things about himself. What were some of Jesus’ claims about himself? Son of Man (Daniel 7 // Mark 10:45) – he will be exalted, Messiah (Mark 10:61-62), Son of God (John 10) – he and the father are one, I AM Statements (to see full list - <https://navigators.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Jesus-I-am-statements.pdf>) – he was before all things, one with the Father (John 10), etc. **How were these claims received by his followers and the religious crowd of the day?** Most of his disciples believed him up until the point that he was arrested and crucified. He lost many followers from the crowd due to the claims. It was these claims that ultimately caused him to be crucified.

Even though Jesus claimed some pretty bold things about himself, he also did some pretty bold things as well. What were some of the things Jesus did during his ministry? Talked to those no one would talk to (lady at the well, lady caught in adultery, Zacchaeus, demon possessed man from Gadara, multiple tax collectors, prostitutes, etc.) // Miracles (walked on water, fed the 5,000, water into wine, etc.) // Healed the sick (bleeding woman, Jairus’ daughter, etc.) // Raised the dead (Lazarus and ultimately himself!) How did this back up or confirm Jesus’ claims?

The most important question we can ever ask/answer is “who is Jesus to me”. So, who is Jesus to you? Or in the words of Jesus – Who do you say I am? CS Lewis outlines that he can only be three things -> liar, lunatic, or Lord. Leaders, share who Jesus is to you and what that means in your life. Leaders please take time to share your story. Tell how you met Jesus, how you have come to know him, and how you’re striving to follow him. **Depending on how you answer that question, how will this change how you live your life this week?**