



PDCPC STUDENT MINISTRY

# JESUS IS

**A SERIES ON JESUS**  
WEEK 1 DEVOTIONAL

Wk €5

# A NOTE FROM RYAN

05/31/2020

Hey Friends!

Have you ever wondered who Jesus truly is? I know over my life I've had many questions about who he is, why he did what he did, and ultimately what that means for us as humans. These devotional guides this month are designed to help us all think a little deeper about Jesus and hopefully gain a little insight into the reason behind his tremendous love.

Grace and Peace,

Ryan

EMAIL: [ryans@pdpresby.org](mailto:ryans@pdpresby.org)

INSTAGRAM: [@pdroots](https://www.instagram.com/pdroots)



THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA...

# JESUS IS

# GOD

You've probably heard of Jesus. You might even think you know a lot about Him. We all have some idea of who we think Jesus is. We might think of Him as a nice guy, a great teacher, a carpenter, or a guy who could walk on water . . . but who is Jesus really?

In this 4-week series, we'll look at what other people have said about Jesus, along with some key moments in Jesus' life and ministry and even Jesus' own words, to help us see that Jesus is God, Savior, truth, and better than a best friend.



# FORGIVENESS

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space on the next page.

- What's one funny reason you've had to ask someone for forgiveness?
- Is it easier for you to forgive someone, or to ask someone for forgiveness? Why?
- What do you think forgiveness means?
- Describe a serious time you needed someone to forgive you. What happened?
- When someone has forgiven you, how do you know it?





# SO WHAT?

## WHY DOES IT MATTER TO GOD AND TO US?

We've all had experiences with forgiveness. Maybe you're thinking right now about a time that you . . .

- Were forgiven.
- Forgave someone.
- Chose not to forgive someone.

Maybe you're struggling right now to forgive, or ask for forgiveness from, someone else. Because forgiveness is something we often need to give, as well as receive, we're going to learn from someone who knows a lot about forgiveness — Jesus.

Whether you have been in church your whole life or this is your first church experience, we all have an idea of who Jesus is. We think of Jesus as a nice guy, a teacher, a carpenter, a guy who walks on water . . . but whatever you think of Jesus, we want to take a couple weeks to talk about Him. Who is He really?



# WHO IS JESUS?

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space provided below.

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Who do other people say Jesus is?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# EXAMPLE #1

## MATTHEW 16:13-16

People have always had questions about who Jesus is. When Jesus was still here on earth, He knew people were wondering who He was, so one day, He asked His friends and followers what they thought.

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" - Matthew 16:13-16

The disciples responded with a whole list of possible answers to Jesus' question. According to them, people thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. In other words, people thought Jesus was a good teacher or religious leader.

If you're not sure what a "prophet" is, it's simply a person who speaks to and for God. In a sense, these people were right — Jesus does, in fact, speak to and for God. But they weren't exactly right... Jesus isn't just another prophet, Jesus is God!





# JESUS IS MORE THAN A PROPHET

After His disciples answered His question, Jesus asked another question. This time, He didn't want to know what other people thought about Him — He wanted to know what His closest friends thought about Him. Who did they think He was? Peter said He believed Jesus was two things:

- *THE MESSIAH* Messiah is a word used to talk about someone who would save God's people — we'll talk more about this next week.
- *THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD*

This is a big statement! If someone told you they believed you had come to save the world because you are the daughter or son of all-powerful deity . . . well, you'd probably assume they were nuts. In Jesus' case, though, it was true.



# EXAMPLE #2

## MARK 2:1-12

Jesus had just returned from a preaching tour in Galilee — He was basically a celebrity, so people flocked to see Him. The room was completely packed out...

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 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, '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? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" - Mark 2:1-12



# JESUS IS GOD

At this point in Jesus' ministry, He had already healed a ton of people from sickness, paralysis, blindness — even death. He had a reputation as a miracle-worker. Having heard about Jesus, this paralyzed man wanted to see Jesus in hopes that he too might be healed.

In an act of total desperation, courage, and maybe stupidity, this guy's friends decide to try something reckless. They couldn't get to Jesus through the front door, but they thought they might be able to go through the roof. While Jesus was teaching...

...these men climbed on top of the house, tore a hole in the roof, and lowered their friend down toward Jesus.

This man was probably so excited to finally see Jesus. He was probably thinking... 'Finally, I'm going to be healed! Yes!'" And then . . . Jesus says, "I forgive you! "Uh . . . that's great and all, but forgiveness wasn't really what the paralyzed man was after. He wanted to walk again!

Why did Jesus offer this man forgiveness? Had this man done something to offend Jesus? Was it that whole dropping-through-the-roof thing?



# JESUS IS GOD

No! This was much bigger than that.

A few minutes ago, we acknowledged that, when you hurt someone, the only person who can forgive you is the person you harmed. By offering forgiveness to this man, Jesus is letting us know that he had done something to harm Jesus — but what? To understand that, you need to understand this: because God created everything (you, me, the world, and everyone in it) anytime we harm ourselves, others, or the world we live in, we harm the God who created them.

*So all sin is really a sin against God.*

That time you cheated on a test, punched your brother, gossiped about a classmate, or talked back to your parents? Yeah, those were sins against God. That's the bad news.

But here's the good news: because every sin is a sin against God, *God has the authority to forgive every sin.* So when Jesus tells this man his sins are forgiven, He's making a big statement. He's saying, "I'm not just a good teacher. My authority comes from God, because I am God." And then, to prove His point, Jesus told the paralyzed man to get up and walk, *healing him completely — not just spiritually, but physically too.*



# THINKING DEEPER

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space on the next page.

- When God has forgiven you, how do you know it?
- Read II Corinthians 5:17. How was this true for the paralyzed man? How is it true for us today?
- How does Jesus' ability to forgive show that he is God? What about His ability to heal?
- Aside from Jesus' ability to heal and forgive, how else can we know Jesus is God





# INNER- REFLECTION

Instructions: Think about the following questions. You can write your answer in your own journal or in the space on the next page.

- Let's say for a second that you're not sure Jesus is God. What do you think it would take for you to be able to confidently say that you believe He is?
- Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God?
- If Jesus is God, then what's one thing you're going to do in response?



