



PDCPC STUDENT MINISTRY

JESUS IS

A SERIES ON JESUS
WEEK 3 DEVOTIONAL

WEEK €5

A NOTE FROM RYAN

06/21/2020

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

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



THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA...

JESUS IS

Truth

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?

For the last two weeks, we've been talking about who Jesus is. So far, we've said Jesus is God and Jesus is Savior. But today, we're talking about a third thing Jesus is — but, to some people, this one can be a little offensive...



WHAT?

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT TODAY?

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

- How would you define "truth"?
- What do you think it means that Jesus is the truth?
- On a scale of 1-5, how difficult is it for you to believe that Jesus is the truth? Why?



Fake or Real News?

There are lies and there is truth, but have you noticed that it's not always easy to tell the difference between the two? Thanks to the internet, we have so much information at our fingertips! But not all of that information is truthful. Sometimes people write funny articles meant to poke fun, but people don't get the joke. Other times, sites disguised as credible sources deliberately spread misinformation. If we're not careful, it can be easy to mistake something false for the truth!

Something to think about: with all of this misinformation out there, what impact, if any, do you think this has had on our relationship with truth? How do think it might affect people's ability to believe in truth?



SO WHAT?

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO GOD AND TO US?

For the last two weeks, we've been talking about who Jesus is. So far, we've said Jesus is God and Jesus is Savior. But today, we're talking about a third thing Jesus is — but, to some people, this one can be a little offensive...

Many people believe that truth doesn't really matter. Some people say truth doesn't even exist — they say there is no way to know if anything is always true for everyone.

This isn't a new debate. In fact, a man named Pontius Pilate seems to have engaged Jesus in this very debate just before Jesus was sentenced to death for crimes He did not commit.



EXAMPLE #1

JOHN 18:28-38

"Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, 'What charges are you bringing against this man?' 'If he were not a criminal,' they replied, 'we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.' 'But we have no right to execute anyone,' they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?' 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?' Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.' 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate. Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.' 'What is truth?' retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, 'I find no basis for a charge against him.'" -John 18:28-38



WHO IS JESUS?

Here's what's happening:

The religious leaders of the day wanted Jesus dead. Like we said two weeks ago, Jesus was claiming to be God, and that outraged the religious leaders. But they had a problem — legally, they weren't allowed to sentence anyone to death. They needed the Roman government to do that. The religious leaders took Jesus to the Roman government (Pontius Pilate), but Pilate wasn't convinced Jesus had done anything worthy of death.

Pilate questions Jesus as he tries to figure out what's going on and what he should do about it. Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" If Jesus is claiming to be king, Pilate has a problem because their government already has a king! Pilate can't have someone threatening to take Herod's rightful spot as king. So is Jesus a king?

First, Jesus responds with a question. Then, Jesus basically says, "Well, kind of." He has a Kingdom, He says, but it's not an earthly kingdom. Pilate is confused.

He just wants to know if Jesus' goal is to overthrow the king, but Jesus says His goal is something very different — to testify to the truth. "What is truth?" Pilate responds.

There is some debate over what Pilate meant by this. Was he sincerely asking about truth? Was he suggesting that there's no such thing as truth? Or was he talking about Jesus' trial and impending death, suggesting that whether or not Jesus was truly guilty didn't matter — He was probably going to be killed anyway? It's not for known for sure, but his question is still a good one. What is truth? It's not always easy to know what's true, but in this case, Jesus makes it clear: *He is truth, and He came to show the world what truth is.*

This claim is what makes Jesus different, but it's also what helped get Him killed. Jesus claimed He is the truth, and those of us who trust in Him still believe it today — that truth isn't just an idea. Truth is a Person



EXAMPLE #1

JOHN 14:1-7

This isn't the first time Jesus made this claim. Just a few chapters earlier, Jesus said something similar to His disciples.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’” -John 14:1-7

Jesus' friends were upset because Jesus was starting to anger people wherever they went, and His bold and controversial teachings were putting their lives at risk...



JESUS IS GOD = JESUS IS TRUTH

To comfort them and let them know that He had a plan, no matter what happened next, Jesus said He would be going to His Father's house to prepare a place for them — a place where God is, and where they're invited to be too! Jesus' friends seem a little stumped.

Since they don't know exactly where Jesus is going, how can they possibly know how to get there? What's the address? Can they have directions? What time should they get there?

Jesus assures them that they do actually know the way because they know Him. He's the one true way to God!



THINKING DEEPER

Your objections and questions are completely understandable. We've talked before about how we all have questions when it comes to our faith, and we won't always be able to find great answers to those questions.

Maybe you don't agree with some of the objections we just read, but maybe you do. Either way, remember — *Jesus doesn't shame us when we have questions or doubts about Him.*

Jesus reminded them who He was (the Truth), but He seemed to give them plenty of time and space to let that sink in. I think He does the same for us too. Here's what I find so interesting about how Jesus talks about truth . . . Jesus didn't say, "Here is the way, the truth and the life. You will come to the Father if you do these five things correctly . . ."

Instead, He said "I am the way." Jesus didn't give us a textbook filled with all of the right answers — He gave us Himself, and invited us to get to know Him



NOW WHAT?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?

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

- Of the questions and objections we heard today, which is the most difficult for you to answer or explain?
- Do you think it's possible to argue someone into believing that Jesus is truth? Why or why not?
- What can we do about our own (or other people's) questions or objections that Jesus is truth?



EXAMPLE #3

JOHN 8:32

Maybe you're thinking, "Okay, fine. Jesus is truth. But what does that mean for me? Why does this matter?" There's one more moment from the book of John I want to look at before we close.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." – John 8:32

When we know Jesus, we know truth, and His truth sets us free. His truth sets us free . . .

- From the power of sin and death.
- From believing lies about God, ourselves, or others.
- From anger, guilt, shame, fear, brokenness, unforgiveness, or anything else that keeps us captive.

Jesus is truth, and His truth sets us free.



RESPONSE

I AM FREE

Just as we've done the last few weeks, we're going to end today by writing another statement. This week, we're going to focus on how the truth of Jesus can set us free from whatever has power over us.

Instructions: Think about one thing Jesus sets us free from. This could be an example from your life, an example from the life of someone you know, or a hypothetical example. Then, keep the paper somewhere you can see it everyday as a reminder that Jesus can give us freedom!



AN OPEN INVITATION

There is so much that the truth of Jesus frees us from! Whether it's sin we've committed, lies we've believed, or brokenness that's holding us captive, the truth of Jesus can set us free.

Today, here's an invitation to you:

If Jesus is truth, and the true way to God, do you know Him? If you don't, maybe today is the day you want to begin that journey of knowing Him better. If Jesus is truth, and the truth sets us free, what do you need to be set free from? Will you let the truth of Jesus set you free?



NOW WHAT?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?

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

- How would you define "freedom"?
- Has the truth of Jesus set you free from something? If so, what did His truth set you free from?
- What's one way today's conversation has changed or challenged you?
- Read Psalm 25:5. This week, how can we let God's truth guide us "all day long"?



