

## session 10 study guide

# Jesus

## message

How would your friends describe you? Your family? Your teachers? Your enemies? How would they respond if you asked them, “Who do you say I am?” Would you want to know the answer?

This is just what Jesus did with His disciple Peter.

In the following verses from Matthew, Jesus is traveling with Peter and the other disciples through a territory called Caesarea Philippi—an area that was hostile to the Christian faith. It is here that Jesus asks Peter two questions: (1) “Who do the people say [I] am?” and (2) “Who do you say I am?”

Read on to find out Peter’s response. As you read, keep the following questions in mind: (1) Does Peter really understand who Jesus is? (2) If a friend asked you to describe Jesus, who would *you* say He is?

*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 Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

*Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”*

*Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ (Matthew 16:13-17,20).*

**dig**

1. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter what people were saying about Him?

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2. According to Peter's response, who were some of the individuals that people believed Jesus was?

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3. Who does Peter say that Jesus is?

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4. According to the text, how did Peter understand who Jesus is?

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5. Why did Jesus not want them to tell anyone He was Christ?

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### **apply**

Light of the World. King. Creator. High Priest. Holy One. Rabbi. Lamb of God. Redeemer. The Way. The Truth. The True Vine. The Righteous One. Savior. There are many names associated with Jesus. But who did Jesus say that He was? Let's take a look at the actual words Jesus used to describe Himself and see how we can better understand who He is based on what He claimed about Himself.

1. Read the following verses and determine who Jesus says He is in each verse.

John 14:6: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 10:29-30: \_\_\_\_\_

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Revelation 1:8: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 5:22,27: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 3:17: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 4:25-26: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 1:1,14: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. One of the hardest aspects to understand about Jesus is that He is both fully God and fully man. What do you think “fully God and fully man” really means?

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fully man

1. Look up Hebrews 2:17-18 and Hebrews 4:15. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' being fully human?

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2. How do these verses provide comfort for you when you face trials and struggles?

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3. What aspect of Jesus' human nature are shown in the following verses?

Galatians 4:4-5: \_\_\_\_\_

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Matthew 26:36-42: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 11:30-35: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mark 11:12: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus can sympathize with the difficulties we face because He lived on this earth as a human being. He slept. He ate. He experienced joy and sadness. He enjoyed the company of friends and experienced the ache of loneliness. Being fully human means that He can identify with *all* aspects of our lives.

#### fully God

At the same time, Jesus is fully God. He has the power to heal the sick, forgive sins, mend lives and raise the dead. What can we learn about Jesus' being fully God from the following passages?

John 1:1-4: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 8:23-24: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mark 2:5-7: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 10:25-30: \_\_\_\_\_

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John 14:9-11: \_\_\_\_\_

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**reflect**

1. Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). What things of the world try to compete with Jesus as the way?

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2. What would you say to someone who believed that Jesus was just a good man but nothing more?

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3. What comfort can you gain by knowing that Jesus was both fully human and fully God?

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4. In his book *Mere Christianity*, Christian author and theologian C. S. Lewis makes the following claim:

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.”<sup>1</sup>

In essence, Lewis is saying that there are three possibilities for who Jesus was: a liar, a lunatic or truly Lord. If a friend asked you, “Who is Jesus?” how would you respond?

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### meditation



I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:6

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#### Note

1. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1943), p. 56.