

# brentwood baptist

Jesus Looks Like...the Father

6/19/2022

## MAIN POINT

The Bible teaches us that Jesus is God. Because He is, we can know everything we need to know about God by looking to Jesus.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What are the first three words that come to mind when you think about God right now? Why?**

**What about Jesus? Do any different words come to mind when you think of Him?**

Though God's ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts, He has revealed Himself to us in a manner and way that we can understand. God's revelation of Himself is Jesus. Because the Bible teaches us that Jesus is God, we can know everything we need to know about God by looking to Jesus.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**How would you explain the Trinity to someone from another faith?**

**Christians believe that Jesus, one of the members of the Trinity, is fully God and fully man at the same time. Why is it important in Christianity to believe that Jesus is God?**

**Can you think of any places in the Bible that teach the divinity of Jesus?**

The belief in the divinity of Jesus is incredibly important in Christianity. It's what separates the Leader of our religion from any other religion. Though some might argue that the early Christians did not believe Jesus to be God, we will see in our study that this belief has been central since the very beginning of Christianity.

| HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES:

John 1:1

John 8:58

John 10:30

John 20:28

One of the primary reasons John wrote the Book of John was to show that Jesus is God. To John and the early disciples, this fact was of the utmost importance; in fact, it was and is essential to what we believe as Christians.

**Why does the fact that Jesus is God matter? Why is it essential that someone believe in Jesus' divinity in order to be a Christian?**

**What would some of the implications be if Jesus were not fully God?**

The implications for us are enormous if we do not believe in the divinity of Jesus. Because Jesus claims to be God, if He is not God, then He is a mad man. That means every word from the mouth of Jesus can be trusted only if Jesus was and is God. If, on the other hand, we believe what Jesus says about Himself, it means that we can know everything we need to know about God by looking to Jesus.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:1-11.

**What does Jesus mean in referring to Himself as the Way? Truth? Life?**

**How would these truths have encouraged His disciples at that moment?**

**How might Jesus' claim at the end of verse 7 been received by faithful Jews during Jesus' day? Why?**

As staggering as Jesus' claim to be the exclusive way to the Father was, His statement "you do know Him and have seen Him" must have been even more staggering to the disciples. The Jews taught that no one had seen God at any time (see John 1:18); the Greeks claimed that God was invisible. Jesus asserted that if anyone knew Him and saw Him, that person had known God and seen God.

**What do you think Jesus meant by the phrase, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me"?**

**What evidence do we have that Jesus' words are true?**

Philip and the disciples were called to believe Jesus as well as to believe in Him. The grounds of belief are two-fold: first is Jesus' declaration, and second is the evidence of Jesus' power. There is a call to recognize the miracles as signs pointing to Jesus' deity. Believers have ample reason to be confident in Christ because His words reveal God's truth and His works reveal God's power.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Based on today's study, how would you respond to someone who believes Jesus is a great teacher but not truly God?**

**Is there anywhere else other than Jesus you are looking in order to know God?**

**What is one way you can fix your eyes on Jesus alone as the fullness of God in bodily form?**

**How does your worship need to change in order to more fully reflect Jesus' divinity?**

## PRAYER

As you close in prayer, thank God for coming down to our level in the person of Jesus Christ. Confess that Jesus is God, and ask Him to help you worship Him in the manner He deserves.

## COMMENTARY

| JOHN 1:1-2

1:1-2. The central focus of this verse is eternity. Like His Heavenly Father, Jesus always was and therefore existed at the beginning of time. It is interesting that John should call Jesus the Word rather than some other name to introduce his book—interesting, but not surprising since the Jews often referred to God in such terminology. The doctrine at stake here is the deity of Christ. Jesus is God, and John wanted to make that point immediately. In fact, this prologue (vv. 1-18) begins and ends with a strong statement of this doctrine. The term Word (logos) would have been familiar to the Greeks as well. Their understanding centered on ultimate reason or the rationale of the universe rather than the personal God revealed to Abraham and his descendants. John claimed that the God of creation, the ultimate mind of the universe, had taken on human form; He had become incarnate.

| JOHN 14:6-11

14:6. In response to a question from Thomas, Jesus stated that He was the way and the truth and the life. Jesus did not claim to be one of many ways. Jesus is the way. He not only taught the way, demonstrated the way, and provided the way, He Himself is the way—the only way. The way is not a philosophy or a principle, but a Person. Jesus is the truth. The expression emphasizes Jesus' utter dependability and also the saving truth of the gospel. Jesus is the single reliable source of redemptive revelation. Apart from Him there is no means of knowing God. Jesus also is the life. No real life exists apart from Him. Jesus claimed that individuals are dead without Him. He is the Source and Giver of life and the Conqueror of death. Through Jesus, the very life of God is available to us—abundant, everlasting life.

14:7. Jesus' words "if you know me" refer to the disciples' limited comprehension. Of course, they had known Him well enough to leave their homes and livelihoods to follow Him. Jesus was not saying their knowledge of Him was not real. Rather, He was saying their knowledge did not go deep enough. They had not fully comprehended that Jesus was the only and absolute way to the Father. They needed to come to a fuller knowledge of Jesus and His significance. As staggering as Jesus' claim to be the exclusive way to the Father was, His statement "you do know Him and have seen Him" must have been even more staggering to the disciples. The Jews taught that no one had seen God at any time; the Greeks claimed that God was invisible. Jesus asserted that if anyone knew Him and saw Him, that person had known God and seen God. This reality gives believers confidence and a deep assurance that trusting Jesus is all that is necessary to ensure a place in the Father's house.

14:8-9. Philip wanted an immediate display of the Father's glory. His request reveals that He had not grasped Jesus' words recorded in verse 7. Perhaps Philip desired the kind of revelation of Himself that God occasionally gave in the Old Testament. Jesus' response to Philip reflects an element of sadness and a measure of rebuke. Although Philip had heard Jesus teach and had witnessed His miraculous power for such a long time, he had failed to grasp the unity between Jesus the Son and God the Father. In light of all that the disciples had seen throughout Jesus' ministry, how could Philip say, "Show us the Father"? As believers, we need to be continually growing in our knowledge of Christ. Is our knowledge of Jesus what it should be in light of the length of time we have been following Him?

14:10. Jesus' question to Philip expected a yes answer. The essential unity between Jesus and the Father was so evident that Philip should have recognized that the words and works of the Son were the words and works of the Father. Father and Son are one in nature and essence. The word living points to a permanent relationship.

14:11. In this context the verb believe involves intellectual content as well as personal relationship. Philip and the disciples were called to believe Jesus as well as to believe in Him. Observe the two grounds of belief. First is Jesus' declaration and second is the evidence of Jesus' power. The phrase believe because of the works themselves is a call to recognize the miracles as signs pointing to Jesus' deity. Believers have ample reason to be confident in Christ because His words reveal God's truth and His works reveal God's power.