



## DAY 1 - WHO IS JESUS

**Who is Jesus really? Did he really exist or is he a legend like bigfoot or the Lochness monster?** The bible tells us that Jesus was real but what do scientists like historians have to say?

An historian is someone committed to write only the truth. They must consider both sides of every story. They must use the opinions of those involved in each event but have no personal opinion about the event or person being studied.

All historians know that Jesus was a real man but the question is, who was he and what did he do?

**Who was Jesus?** Was he just a very good man? Was he the best teacher? What did Jesus say about himself?

Jesus had 12 people who went everywhere with him. They were called his disciples. They wrote down everything they heard Jesus say and do. What they wrote was put together to make the bible.

John was a disciple of Jesus and he was also a historian. He wrote down what he saw Jesus say and do in the book of John in the Bible.

John 1:18 Jesus says "no one has ever seen God, but the one and only son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known".

**What was Jesus saying about himself in this statement?** (He is the only son of God)

Jesus wanted the people to know that not only was he God's only son, he was with God from the beginning. John 8: 58 -59 "I tell you the truth" Jesus answered" before Abraham was born, I am!" at this, they picked up stones to stone him but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

When Jesus said "before Abraham was born I am" he was saying he has been with God from the beginning because he is God.

God called himself I am. God is the only one with authority to call himself I am.

**What did Jesus mean when he said I am?** He was saying he is a part of God.

God promised Abraham the messiah would be born into Abraham's family. The Jewish people knew that the messiah was the one who would save the people and bring everlasting freedom.

Matthew was also a disciple of Jesus. He wrote what he heard Jesus say and do.

Matthew 16:19-20 [Jesus said] "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**What did Jesus call himself in this statement?** He is the Messiah

**Blasphemy** is where you claim to be God or be better than God. Since people are not God and people are not better than God, you were supposed to be put to death if you claimed to be God.

John 10:32-3 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

"We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

**Who wrote this rule about blasphemy?** God wrote this law.

**If it is God's own law that someone should be killed if they claim to be God why do you think God would have allowed Jesus to live and not be stoned?** Jesus told the truth.

Remember John was one of Jesus' disciples. John wanted everyone to know the whole truth.

John 1:1-3(TLB) Before anything else existed, there was Christ,\* with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn't make

**What do you think this means?**

Christ is not Jesus' last name. It is a title that tells us what that person will do. Just like Dr. Smith tells you that this person is a doctor, Christ tells us that this person is the son of God and the messiah. When Jesus is called Christ, we know who Jesus is and what he will do.

Jesus had to prove that what he was saying was true and he proved that he was God because only God had the power to control weather (Jesus calmed the storm and stopped waves), he healed sick people (people who were blind, who couldn't walk, people who were dying) He brought the dead back to life (his friend lazarus). Jesus had the power of God in him.

Jesus came to earth to show us what God is like, to show us how to live like he did and to die to save us from sin. Sin separates us from God and God wanted us to be together. God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sin but Jesus would not stay dead.

John 2:19 "Jesus answered, "After you've destroyed this temple, I will raise it up again in three days."

Jesus was not talking about the building. Jesus was talking about his body.

### **What do you think he meant?**

### **If Jesus is the creator of life does death have any power over him?**

Remember a historian's job is to tell the truth no matter what. Scientists and historians can all prove that Jesus was real and he died on a cross, the true question is did he come back to life?

The people who didn't like Jesus knew that Jesus said he would come back to life so they put guards in front of his tomb so that nothing would happen.

Matthew 28:2-4 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

### **Who opened the grave?**

### **How did the guards respond?**

Some of the women disciples of Jesus went to the grave to put spices on his body because that was the tradition for burial in Jesus time. What did they find?

Matthew 28:5-7 NIV "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he is alive, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

### **Why do you think the Jewish leaders paid the guards and told them to lie?**

### **What did Jesus say he would do?**

### **Did he do it?**

Jesus showed up again to his friends after he died and came back to life.

Luke 24:36-39 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He

said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

**What is the proof?**

**What about the resurrection?**

There were about 500 people who saw Jesus after he died and came back to life. He showed up in their houses and talked to them in the streets. The Jewish leaders said this was all a lie.

**Do you think 500 people all lied exactly the same?**

The Jewish leader then said it was all a dream.

**Do you think 500 people had the same dream?**

Remember the disciple? They were too scared to go outside. But after seeing Jesus alive again, the disciples told everybody about Jesus and what he had done. They were no longer afraid. All but one of Jesus' disciples was tortured and killed because they believed Jesus is God. They refused to say it was all a lie. They believed Jesus is God because they saw it with their own eyes and heard it with their own ears.

**Do you think they would accept being tortured and killed for a lie or a wish or a dream?**

**Who do you think Jesus is?**

Have the kids check the room for a clue.