

## Christian Basics

### Session 2: Who is Jesus?

#### Facilitator's Guide

#### Ask:

How has the past week been for you?

Do you have any questions from what we chatted about last week?

**Important - Please Note:** During your meeting, only look up and read the Bible passages that are contained within the boxes. The Bible passage references contained within the body of the information or following the "See Also" text should not be covered during your meeting as it will make the meeting very long. Encourage the participant to look up the passages later and ask any questions they may have at a future catch-up.

#### Introduction

In the last session we discovered that disobedience to God which is known as sin, has catastrophic consequences for all humans and our world. The Bible teaches that all sin ultimately leads to death and eternal separation from God who is the source of all life and love. Sin is not necessarily just about our actions, but it is about the posture of rebellion in our hearts towards God. We also learnt that God loves every person deeply and wants to be in eternal relationship with each one. However, due to His holiness/sinlessness He cannot have sin in His presence. Towards the end of the last session, we hinted that the solution to the problem is God's Son, Jesus Christ. So who is Jesus?

#### 1. Son of God

In Luke chapter 1, we learn that God's Spirit comes upon a virgin named Mary and she miraculously conceives a son with no human intervention.

When the Angel Gabriel is sent from God to announce the news to Mary, he said that the child will be called the Son of God.

#### **Luke 1:35**

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God**."

Later when Jesus gets baptized by His cousin, John the Baptist, God announces that Jesus is His Son.

**Matthew 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

**Ask:** What do you notice about what God the Father says about Jesus.

We will see later in this study, that Jesus drove demons out of people. When some of them were being driven out, they too submitted to Jesus as the Son of God.

**Luke 4:41**

<sup>41</sup> Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.

Some people also referred to Jesus as the "Son of God". A man named Nathanael identified Jesus as the Son of God on his first meeting with Him (John 1:49).

While God the Father, and others claimed that Jesus was the "Son of God", Jesus too claimed on many occasions that God was His Father.

**Matthew 11:27**

<sup>18</sup> "All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

(See Also: Matt 7:21,16:17; Mark 14:36; Luke 2:49; 23:34,42,46; John 5:19,36-43; 8:28; 10:30,36; 14:2,10; 15:8; 17:1-26)

When Jesus referred to God as His Father, the religious leaders wanted to kill Him because to claim to be God's Son was making oneself equal with God, which no

human could claim.

**John 5:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute Him. <sup>17</sup> In His defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus also understood Himself to be equal with God.

**John 14:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”  
<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

(See also: John 10:30)

**2. Prove It!**

Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God (thus making Himself equal with God) would hold no weight though if He did not perform acts that can only be attributed to God. On one occasion, Jesus clearly linked a miraculous act with words of forgiveness that could only be offered by God.

**Mark 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup>They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup> 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? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So He said to the man, <sup>11</sup> “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” <sup>12</sup> 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!”

(See also: Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26)

**Ask:** What do you notice about the link between Jesus forgiving the man’s sins and the miracle?

In this story we see that Jesus links the healing of the man with His authority to forgive sins, which only God can do. On many other occasions Jesus does what only God can do, to show that He is in fact God’s Son and therefore equal with God.

In addition to healing the paralysed man that we read of above He miraculously **healed many people** when He walked on the earth demonstrating his authority over our bodies as well as all sickness and disease.

### **Mark 1:29-34a**

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.

(See also: Matthew 8:5-14, 16-17, 9:27-31, 14:43-36; Mark 3:1-6, 7:31-37; Luke 4:38-39, 5:12-14, 9:32-34, 13:10-17; John 4:43-54, 5:1-15; 6:6-11; 9:1-12)

Jesus also **drove out demons** from people who were causing great suffering for many, demonstrating His power and authority over the spiritual realm.

**Read:** Mark 1:23-26

### **Mark 1:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

(See also: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 4:31-36, 9:37-43)

Jesus **miraculously multiplied food** to feed thousands of people on two occasions, demonstrating His power and authority to sustain all creation.

### **Matthew 14:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

<sup>17</sup> “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

<sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup> And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

(See also: Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 6:30-44, 8:1-13; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15)

Jesus **calmed ferocious weather** with one simple command demonstrating His power and authority over creation.

### **Matthew 8:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> Then He got into the boat and his disciples followed Him. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

(See also: Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 5:25-34; John 8:22-25)

On three occasions, Jesus **raised people from the dead**, demonstrating His power and authority over death.

### **Luke 7:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd went along with Him. <sup>12</sup> As He approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her and He said, "Don't cry."

<sup>14</sup> Then He went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

(See also: Matthew 9:18, 23-26; Mark 5:21-43; John 11:1-45)

### **Looking Forward**

The title Son of God, used to describe Jesus, was validated by amazing signs, wonders and actions. However, it would be His death in the cross that would provide the solution to the problem of sin and separation from God, that we all experience.

### **Ask:**

1. What stood out most for you in our discussion today?

2. What will you do as a result of our time today?
3. Who in your life do you think would be interested in hearing about what you have discovered today?
4. How can I be praying for you this week?