

## Christian Basics Program

### Session 2: Who is Jesus?

#### 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.

**Read:** Luke 1:35

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

**Read:** Matthew 3:16-17

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 Jesus as the Son of God.

**Read:** Luke 4:41

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 (see: 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.

**Read:** Matthew 11:27

(See Also: Matt 7:21,16:17; Mark 14:36; Luke 2:49; 3:34,42,46; 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.

**Read:** John 5:16-18

Jesus also understood himself to be equal with God.

**Read:** John 14:8-9

(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.

**Read:** Mark 2:1-12

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

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.

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

(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

(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.

**Read:** Matthew 14:14-21

(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.

**Read:** Matthew 8:23-27

(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.

**Read:** Luke 7:11-15

(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.