

# JESUS

## Part 2

### LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVE

To develop an understanding of Jesus' nature as both God and man that will protect you against false teachings and give you confidence in trusting Jesus with a specific need.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE SAY THAT JESUS IS BOTH MAN AND GOD?

Jesus is...

- A man who became God?
- God indwelling a man?
- God appearing to be a man?
- A spiritual being ordered by God to become man?
- Fully God and fully man?

### JOHN 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### **1 JOHN 4:2 (GNT)**

Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ came as a human being has the Spirit who comes from God.

## **JESUS IS GOD**

### **HOW DO WE KNOW THAT JESUS IS GOD?**

#### **1. Jesus said he is God.**

##### **JOHN 5:18**

He was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

##### **JOHN 10:30**

“I and the Father are one.”

##### **JOHN 14:9**

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

##### **JOHN 8:58**

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

*I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.” That is one thing*

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

*we must not say. 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 a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse . . . You can try to shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and call Him a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

- C. S. LEWIS

Josh McDowell says that Jesus is either “a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ said he is God.

This started in the prophecies of Jesus’ birth before he was born.

**ISAIAH 9:6**

And he will be called...Mighty God.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

It continued with those who were closest to him, his own disciples.

### **PHILIPPIANS 2:10–11 (NASB)**

So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow . . . and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Compare Philippians 2:10–11 with what is said of God in Isaiah.

### **ISAIAH 45:22–23**

“I am God, and there is no other. . . Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.”

### **COLOSSIANS 2:9**

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

### **JOHN 1:1–2**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### 3. He is \_\_\_\_\_ as God

**(Matthew 14:33; Philippians 2:10; Hebrews 1:6)**

- Many worshipped him: a healed leper (Matthew 8:2), women (Matthew 15:25), the mother of James and John (Matthew 20:20), a Gerasenes demoniac (Mark 5:6), a blind man (John 9:38).
- He accepted such worship (John 20:28-29; Matthew 14:33; 28:9-10).
- His disciples prayed to him (Acts 7:59).

### 4. He does what \_\_\_\_\_ can do.

- He has the power to forgive sin (Mark 2:1-12).
- All \_\_\_\_\_ is in his hands (John 5:27; Acts 17:31).
- He sends the Spirit (John 15:26).
- He will raise the dead (John 5:25).
- He is the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10).
- He is the Sustainer – upholding all (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3).

Those are the facts, facts supported by the evidence.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### WHAT EVIDENCE SUPPORTS JESUS' CLAIM TO BE GOD?

#### Evidence 1: \_\_\_\_\_

##### LUKE 24:44

[Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

The Old Testament verses are the prophecy. The New Testament verses proclaim the fulfillment.

1. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23).
2. A descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16).
3. Of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14).
4. Of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1).
5. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7).
6. Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15).
7. Herod's killing of the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18).
8. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17).
9. Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3).
10. Would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35).
11. Would preach Good News (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21).
12. Would minister in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16).
13. Would cleanse the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13).

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

14. Would enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9).
15. Would be rejected by Jews (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7).
16. Would die a humiliating death involving:
  - a. rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5, 48).
  - b. betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18).
  - c. being sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15).
  - d. silence before his accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14).
  - e. being mocked (Psalm 22:7-8; Matthew 27:31).
  - f. being beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26).
  - g. being spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30).
  - h. piercing his hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31).
  - i. being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38).
  - j. praying for his persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34).
  - k. piercing his side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34).
  - l. being given gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36).
  - m. no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36).
  - n. being buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
  - o. casting lots for his garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).
17. Would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31).

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

18. Would ascend into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9).
19. Would sit down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3).

### **A CLOSER LOOK**

Some people call this fulfillment of prophecy a "statistical accident:" He "just happened" to be born in Bethlehem, to be of David's line, etc. There are two answers to that argument. First, these predictions were more than just a matter of chance. He "just happened" to make a blind man see. He "just happened" to rise again from the dead. That's beyond statistical probability!

The second answer is the large number of prophecies that were fulfilled. Peter Stoner in his book *Science Speaks* has calculated the mathematical probability of even eight of these prophecies being fulfilled in one man.

*We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 101*

That would be one in 100,000,000,000,000. In order for us to be able to comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that:

*We take 1017 silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one?*

*Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote in their own wisdom.<sup>3</sup>*

And Jesus did not just fulfill eight prophecies, he fulfilled more than 300 specific prophecies of his life from the Old Testament!



## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### **Evidence 2: His \_\_\_\_\_**

When asked for proof, Jesus pointed to the miracles.

#### **LUKE 7:20, 22**

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" . . . So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

- "the blind receive sight" (Matthew 9:27-31; Luke 18:35-43; Mark 8:22-26)
- "the lame walk" (Matthew 9:2-7)
- "those who have leprosy are cured" (Matthew 8:2-3; Luke 17:11-19)
- "the deaf hear" (Mark 7:31-37)
- "the dead are raised" (Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Luke 7:11-15; John 11:1-44)
- "good news is preached" (Matthew 11:5)

### **Evidence 3: His \_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus not only predicted it but told the number of days!

#### **JOHN 2:19**

Jesus answered them, "*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.*"

#### **MATTHEW 12:40**

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

*“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*

### **MARK 8:31**

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

### **JOHN 10:17–18**

*“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*

## **JESUS IS MAN**

### **HOW DO WE KNOW JESUS IS MAN?**

1. He had a human \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 7:14-16; Matthew 1:23; Galatians 4:4).  
(A virgin birth)

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

2. He showed human \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:52).

○ Notice four human ways that Jesus grew:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. He experienced human \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus felt:

- Grief (John 11:35)
- Sorrow (Matthew 26:38)
- Amazement (Matthew 8:10)
- Love (for an unbeliever: Mark 10:21; for his friends: John 11:5; for his disciples: John 13:1; for his mother: John 19:26-27)
- Wonder (Mark 6:6)
- Distress (Mark 14:33)
- Compassion (Mark 1:41)
- Anger (Mark 3:5)

4. He had human \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_.

- He was tired (John 4:6; Mark 4:38)
- He was hungry (Matthew 4:2)
- He was thirsty (John 19:28).
- He was in agony (Luke 22:44).
- He was tempted (Matthew 4:1- 11).
- He died (Luke 23:46).

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### **A FRESH WORD**

#### **Incarnation**

The word incarnation is from the Latin for "in the flesh!" When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was the incarnation of God into this world. God came to us in human flesh.

## **JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN**

The council of Chalcedon was a group called together in A.D. 451 to deal with false teaching in that day as to the nature of Jesus. Look at their famous affirmation of the truth that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Jesus exists "in two natures which exist without confusion, without change, without division, without separation, the difference of the natures having been in no wise taken away by reason of the union, but rather the properties of each being preserved, and both concurring into one person."

Wow! What does all that mean?

- Jesus became 100 percent God and 100 percent man 100 percent of the time (that's not good math, but it's excellent theology).
- Jesus was not God indwelling a man. He was not a man who became God. He was not God appearing to be a man. He combined in one personality the two natures: He was fully God and he was fully man.
- Jesus is perfect humanity wrapped around undiminished deity.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### **A FRESH WORD**

#### **Hypostatic Union**

The union of undiminished deity and perfect humanity forever in one person. That means that Jesus not only became God and man but that he will always be God and man.

1. Jesus always has been God (John 1:2).
2. Jesus became man while continuing to be God (John 1:14).
3. Jesus continues to exist as God and man (Acts 1:9-11).

Jesus limited himself – he became fully man.

But...

Jesus did not Lessen himself – he remained fully God.

### **JESUS LIMITED HIMSELF**

- By taking the form of a man (Philippians 2:8-8)
- By limiting his presence to one place and one time
- By taking a position in which the Father was "greater" (John 14:28)
- By limiting his understanding (Matthew 24:36)

The he idea of Jesus being limited and yet also being God is difficult to understand. This is one of those times when it's good to realize that God is so much greater than we are that some of the truths about him are difficult for us to grasp.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### JESUS DID NOT LESSEN HIMSELF

- He was still fully God even as he walked this earth.
- The decision to be born a man, to walk this earth, and to die on a cross was made by him as a part of the Trinity.

Even while on earth, he limited himself by choice: He could have turned the stones to bread when Satan tempted him (Luke 4:3). He could have called 10,000 angels to save him from the cross (Matthew 26:53), but he chose not to.

#### KEY PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Philippians 2:5-11 is one of the most exciting passages in the Bible about Jesus' willingness to become a man. As you read it, note that it says at the beginning, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What is Paul talking about? What attitude is revealed in Jesus' willingness to become a man?

Verses 3-4 share several specifics concerning this attitude:

- ◆ Do nothing out of selfish ambition.
- ◆ Don't act out of vain conceit.
- ◆ Consider others better than yourself.
- ◆ Don't just look out for yourself.
- ◆ Look out for the interests of others.

The attitude is \_\_\_\_\_

As fully man, Jesus shows us that he \_\_\_\_\_ our needs.

As fully God, Jesus shows us that he can \_\_\_\_\_ our needs.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have your friendships with other believers helped you to see God's love in new and fresh ways?
2. Share your experiences from this last week of acting on the truth that Jesus is our best friend. In what ways did you sense the closeness and friendship of Jesus as a part of your daily life? Where were you frustrated, left wishing you would have remembered how close Jesus is? (Don't be afraid to share your frustrations; it will be an encouragement to others who faced the same feelings this last week.)
3. Which of the three evidences for Jesus being God is the strongest for you? Why do you think this evidence is the most important for you?
4. Even with this evidence, many people still struggle to believe. What's the difference between physical proof and personal faith? Is faith something that we should have without any proof at all? Is proof a guarantee that we will have faith?
5. Which is harder for you to see as real: the fact that Jesus is completely God or the fact that Jesus is completely man?

Generally, unbelievers have a harder time seeing Jesus as being God. Believers have a difficult time seeing the human side of Jesus.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Jesus (Part 2)

6. We know that Jesus can identify with our struggles and weaknesses because of the fact that he became a person. Right now, what are one or two areas where you are glad he is able to identify with you?
- Tiredness
  - Temptations
  - Emotions
  - Disappointment
  - Betrayal
  - Relationships
  - Stress
7. The life of Jesus was all about serving others. Those who get close to him end up being more and more like him, wanting to serve others. Who needs your service in Jesus' name this next week? It doesn't have to be something big or noticeable.

In Matthew 10:42 Jesus says, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

This week, look for ways to do seemingly little acts of ministry in Jesus' name. You don't have to tell the people you're serving that you're doing it in Jesus' name. "I'm unselfishly bringing you this cup of coffee in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!" Not that way! Just do it without calling attention to yourself.