

What's so special about Jesus?

Introduction to the book

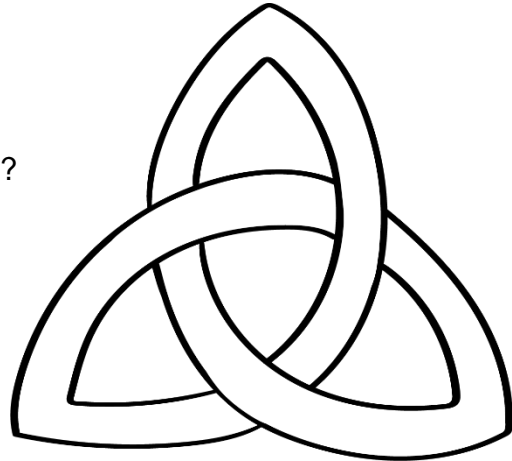
1. What have famous people said about Jesus?

2. Jesus is absolutely unique

Jesus is _____ God and _____ man.

Theologians call Him "the

_____."



In what ways was Jesus as human as we are?

What shows us that Jesus is God?

What does the New Testament say about the Trinity

(In each verse circle the words referring to God the Father,
God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)

Matthew 28:19

The commission to baptize

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 13:14

Apostolic blessing

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Description of the unity of the church

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Description of church government

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

Romans 15:30

Paul's request for prayer

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

If Jesus is God, what does that mean about Him?

* * *

The Bible describes a _____ that has been going on from the beginning of time until now.

Satan led a third of the angels into rebellion against God. They were all cast out of heaven. To this day Satan is in rebellion against God.

Revelation 12:7-9

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.



2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Who are these passages comparing Satan to? _____

3. What would have been different on earth if Jesus had not come?

4. Assignment: Read chapters 1 and 2 of “The Story of Jesus Christ”

If you have time, read Genesis chapters 1-3 in your Bible and memorize Colossians 2:9.

Jesus’ Deity

Colossians 2:9 ESV

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Colossians 2:9 ESV

What Famous People have said about Jesus

<p style="text-align: center;">Napoleon Bonaparte <i>French General, Politician and Emperor</i></p> <p>"I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Blaise Pascal French mathematician, writer, scientist.</p> <p>"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Leo Tolstoy <i>Russian writer and philosopher</i></p> <p>"... I believe in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and my whole life is suddenly completely changed... Life and death are no longer evil to me; instead of hopelessness and despair, I now experience a joy and happiness that not even death can take away from me."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Dickens, <i>British writer</i></p> <p>"I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I now most solemnly impress upon you the truth and beauty of the Christian religion as it came from Christ Himself, and the impossibility of going far wrong if you humbly but heartily respect it."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mahatma Gandhi <i>Indian political leader</i></p> <p>A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Albert Einstein <i>Physicist, creator of the theory of relativity.</i></p> <p>"I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. Jesus is too colossal for the pen of phrase-mongers, however artful."</p>

What's so special about Jesus? (The uniqueness of Christ – Introduction)

Lesson preparation:

Read in advance the chapters "What Is This Book?" and "Introduction: Before Creation". Make sure that your entire group has a copy of "The Story of Jesus Christ". For the first meeting, you should print out the handout and the sayings of famous people about Jesus from this manual. (Cut the quotes into cards and give them to individuals to read.) To make the group feel at ease, it's good to have snacks.

1. Hook:

Welcome the group. If group members are unfamiliar with each other or new to the group, take time to get to know each other. Then introduce the lesson series and hand out the "History of Jesus Christ" books and lesson handouts. Say, "We are going to study the story of the life of a man many consider absolutely unique in human history-the story of the life of Jesus Christ." Hand out and read the "What Famous People have said about Jesus" statements. Ask which one is especially interesting and why?

2. Book:

In our study, we will see that Jesus Christ was a very special man. Read together the Introduction from "The Story of Jesus Christ". There are two ideas in this Introduction. One: Jesus is absolutely unique. He is 100% God and 100% man. Theologians call Him "the God-man." (In the manual, underlined words are words that the group will write on the handout). "Let's first look at the human side of his personality. Ask, in what ways was Jesus as human as we are? (Possible answers: He was born; He had parents; He died; He ate; He had friends, etc.) Now let's look at

Jesus as God. What shows us that Jesus is God? Your group may have difficulty answering this question, so if needed you can help them. (Answers: Jesus accepted worship; He forgave sins; He performed miracles; He said that He and the Father are one; etc.) To better understand the divine nature of Jesus, we need to understand who God is. The Bible says there is only one God, but He is three Persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Ask: "What word expresses this totality? (Answer: "Trinity"). Look again in the Introduction of the book to see what it says about the Trinity. (There are three eternal Persons in the one God essence. Wrong ideas about the Trinity are three different gods with a unity of purpose (tritheism) and three roles for one God. The Trinity is a great mystery beyond human understanding). The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible, but we see the manifestation of it over and over again. It is also interesting to note that we are used to this order: first the Father, then the Son, and then the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, however, we see that the order of names appears differently. They are all of equal importance. They are all God. Read the verses on the printout and circle the words referring to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Mark the order in which the members of the Trinity are named. (If anyone in the group is not familiar with the Bible, explain what the reference means: the title of the book of the Bible, the chapter and then the verse number.) The leader writes down the order in which the persons of the Trinity are named in each of these verses. To save time, you can use these abbreviations: "F" for God the Father, "S" for God the Son, and "HS" for

God the Holy Spirit. (Answers: Matthew 28:19 - F, S, HS; 2 Corinthians 13:14 - S, F, HS; Ephesians 4:4-6 - HS, S, F; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - HS, S, F; Romans 15:30 - S, HS, F). We see that there is no necessary order of their names because they are all God. One of the members of the Trinity is Jesus, who is God the Son. Ask: "If Jesus is God, what does that mean?" (Answers: He has always existed; He is sinless; He is omnipotent; etc.). To understand the work of Jesus, we need to understand another idea. The Bible talks about a battle that has been going on from the beginning of time until now. (Fill in the blank). It is an unequal battle because it is between Almighty God and one of His rebellious angels, the devil. Read again the Introduction: Satan led a third of the angels into rebellion against God. They were all cast out of heaven. To this day Satan is in rebellion against God. Read Revelation 12:7-9; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 Peter 5:8. Who do these passages compare Satan to? (Answers: Revelation 12:7-9, a dragon; Revelation 12:9, a serpent; 1 Peter 5:8, a roaring lion). Why didn't God destroy Satan and his angels at the beginning of their rebellion? We don't know. But we do know that God is Sovereign, which means that no matter what Satan does, God will still defeat him. At the center of this battle with the devil is Jesus.

3. Look:

Think about what would have been different on earth if Jesus had not come? Write down the group's answers. (Possible answers: no churches; no charitable work done by churches; no icons or church art; our calendar would be different; no New Testament; no hope; we would not know much about God and what happens after we die; etc.) Even more than 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus, He still influences our world. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man.

4. Took:

Read the memory verse Colossians 2:9 together. Jesus is God in the flesh. (Every two lessons there is a new verse to memorize. If time allows, the verse can be memorized together or suggested to memorize at home. "So, we begin our study of the life of the greatest Man in all the ages. However, we will be discussing not only the story of Jesus, but also how our story connects to His. Next time we will look at the first two chapters of "The Story of Jesus Christ". The chapters are brief, so if you have time, read them before the meeting. If you have more time, read Genesis chapters 1-3 and memorize Colossians 2:9. Finish with a prayer if the group is ready to do so.

Leader's Guide