

## God -- the One and Only!

*“Lord, there is none like you...” – Micah, Moses*

*“Dear children, keep your selves from idols.” – 1 John 5:21*

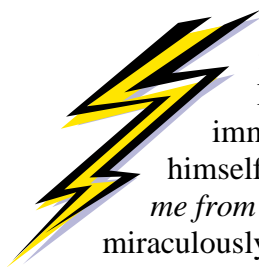
### **Our Goal is to understand more fully - Who is the true God!?**

- *What are some mistaken views of God?*
- *What are some of God’s attributes (characteristics)?*
- *What does it mean that God exists as a “Trinity”?*

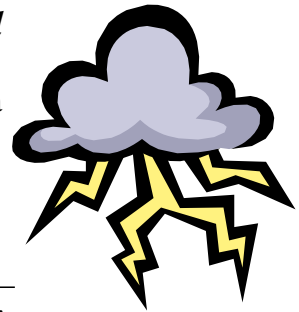
### **Knowing God – The adventure of a lifetime!**

*Prepare yourself!* There is no one in the entire universe who compares to the majestic Person we will consider in this lesson! This Divine Being has captured the imagination of humanity throughout the centuries. His beauty has inspired art, music and poetry. His mystery has fascinated the most sublime philosophers. His tender love has softened the hardest hearts, and his majesty has humbled the unbridled pride of the kings of the earth. *God! There is none like Him!* To know Him is to discover a new world, full of mystery, wonder and exquisite beauty. Welcome to the adventure of a lifetime. But be careful! After tasting a little of Him, this quest becomes a magnificent obsession, a healthy addiction. You will want more! So buckle up as we launch into the deep, sometimes unpredictable waters to know Him better. *God!*

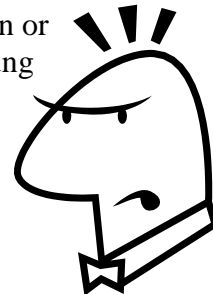
### **True Story: A passionate young man discovers the true God**



Visualize a young man, about 18 years old, walking in a field. Suddenly a violent storm erupts, flashing thunder, lightning, and buckets of rain. A bolt strikes a spot immediately beside this young man. Terrified, he throws himself to the ground, crying and shouting to God: *“If you save me from this storm, I will serve you the rest of my life.”* Suddenly – miraculously - the sky clears, leaving this young man sobbing in the dirt – gasping for breath and soaked with sweat and rain.



His father, a prosperous business man who rarely showed affection or humor, had insisted that his son apply to law school. But this earnest young man could not bring himself to renege on the promise he had made to the Lord, and entered a monastery. On the day of his ordination this young man could hardly contain his excitement as he prepared to celebrate the Eucharist for the first time – with his father present in the congregation. Perhaps finally he could earn his father’s approval.





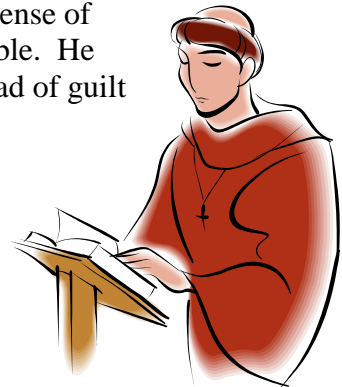
After the ceremony he sought out his father and mother to celebrate this all important moment of his life. But instead of an embrace or smile of congratulations, this son received only cold, formal silence and an expression of utter rejection and scorn on the face of his father.

Devastated, the young man threw himself into his clerical obligations. If he could not earn the love of his father, perhaps God could be won over with his sincere, sacrificial efforts. He prayed and fasted more than any other, spending hours and hours in daily penitence and confession of sin. The elderly priest who had the misfortune of listening to this tedious litany of peccadilloes finally barked back --

*"I am sick and tired of listening to these silly confessions day in and day out! Your sins are painfully boring! If you're going to confess, please go out and commit some crime worthy of the confessional. Kill your father or mother! Commit adultery! Anything to spice things up a bit! Just stop torturing me with these insignificant little confessions!"*

But of course the young man remained inconsolable. His sense of guilt and inferiority grew and grew until it finally became unbearable. He came to the point of suicide or complete insanity because of the load of guilt he bore.

Sensing his protégée's desperation, his confessor, a kindly and wise man of God, assigned him to study the Scriptures – specifically the New Testament. The young monk set out to study with his usual intensity until one day his eyes fell on the following verse in Paul's letter to the Romans:



*"The righteous will live by faith."*



In that instant the young man felt a tremendous burden lifted from his shoulders. His muscles relaxed; his heart became inundated with burning peace and love, and the tears flowed. Finally he realized...

*"I do not have to earn my salvation! Neither do I have to work in order to earn the love and approval of my heavenly father!"*

This young man experienced a new spiritual birth, beholding God, and himself, through new eyes. He came to be the leader of a massive social movement that espoused a new type of Christianity – one based on salvation by grace, through faith, and not by human effort.

***This movement is called the "Protestant Reformation!"***

***This young man's name was – Martin Luther!***

## ***We have mistaken concepts of God***

Based on this story, what kept the young man from seeing God as a loving father?

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And you? How has your own family or religious background possibly influenced – positively or negatively – your own concept of what God is like?

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Unfortunately, many of us live with distorted views of God. Our family or religious background has contaminated our thinking, resulting in some of the following erroneous perspectives.

### ***1. God the Monster***



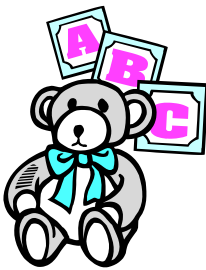
Many, for having suffered in the home of an abusive father or perhaps having been raised in a legalistic version of religion, view God with mistrust and fear. We do not dare seek intimacy with him. On the contrary, we keep Him at a distance, fearing that he might be quick to punish us for the smallest mistakes or defects. Today we will learn that *God is love* – more merciful and patient than we can imagine!

### ***2. God as Santa Clause***

On the other extreme, many of us view God as so loving that He would never demand anything of us. We think He gives us license to do as we please with our lifestyle and behavior, never having to suffer the consequences. But we will see that God is holy and just – not to be trifled with!



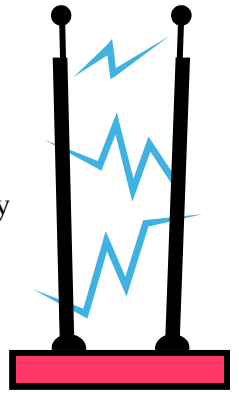
### ***3. God as Teddy Bear***



Many of us view God as if he were a type of pet or security blanket, -- a “teddy bear” to be held for comfort. But we will see that God is holy and awesome, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. He more great and terrible than we could possible imagine.

#### 4. *The “Force” – (from Star Wars)*

Many people view God as if He were some sort of electrical energy – a force to be manipulated and channeled. This perspective fails to see Him as a Personal God, whom we can know and respect, but rather as merely raw power to be controlled.



Witchcraft conceives of God in this manner. If one knows the appropriate incantations, one can use the force to perform spiritual signs. Many Christians try to approach God in the same, erroneous manner. We offer religious sacrifices and perform apparently spiritual activities, thinking that we can activate good “luck” from our god.



#### 5. *A “Good Luck Charm”*

Many approach God as if He were some sort of good luck charm. Perhaps they carry a cross or a figurine of a “saint” in order to ward off “bad vibes” in their daily lives. Or perhaps they think that religious activities, contributions to the church or magic prayers can bring them good luck. This view motivates us to fulfill certain religious duties, without consideration for a person’s lifestyle or heart before God. Fulfilling the requirements of this “god” is meant to bring good luck.

The Israelites tried to do this in battle against their enemies. In spite of God’s clear warnings to the contrary, they attacked the Philistines, bringing along the Ark of the Covenant, containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, in hopes of good luck. (1 Samuel 3-4) But God is not to be manipulated in this way. He allowed them to be defeated by their enemies and allowed the ark to be captured; making the point that He is not to be treated as a pagan idol or a good luck charm.

### *The True God – Personal and Transcendent*

#### *God is Personal – Do you know God’s “personality”?*

The Bible teaches clearly that our God is not an “it” nor a “concept,” but a *personal* being. He possesses a heart full of intense and profound emotion. For example....



##### *God experiences joy*

God delights in the obedience of His children. The Bible says that God “*will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with this love, he will rejoice over you with singing.*” (Zephaniah 3:17)

##### *God experiences sadness*

When humanity became corrupt in the days of Noah, God’s heart was “full of pain.” (Gen. 6:6) This sin also provoked his anger.

##### *God experiences anger*

The Bible testifies again and again to “*the wrath of the Lord.*”

# ***Personal Characteristics of God***

## ***God is love***

*“The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 Jn. 4:8)*

More than a characteristic, love is the very *identity* of God. He defines love.

- ***Love serves others***

*“Having loved his own who were in the World, he now showed them the full extent of his love...he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet...” John 13:1,6*



- ***Love sacrifices for others...***

*“Greater love has no one than this; that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13*

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Jesus died for us.” Romans 5:8*



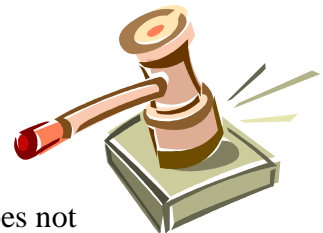
Love is *not* merely a sentimental, warm feeling. It is a commitment which expresses itself in action. We see love perfectly demonstrated on the cross of Jesus Christ. He said, “I love you,” and *underlined it with his own blood!!*

## ***God is compassionate and merciful***

*“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

## ***God is Just***

Some try to take advantage of God’s love, using His mercy as a license to continue a lifestyle of sin. God is not our little pet! While abounding in love and mercy, he also is completely just, and does not ignore sin. He is a judge who will have nothing to do with corruption. He will not be bribed, has no hypocrisy, and will not overlook sin. He is merciful, but just. God is not to be trifled with!



## ***God is faithful and True***

***God speaks the truth and fulfills his promises.***



*“God is Light, and there is no darkness in Him.” (1 John..)*

Many of us have learned to be suspicious of others, because people invariably fail us in some way. But...

*“God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise, and not fulfill?”*  
(Numbers 23:19)

Is it hard for you to trust others – perhaps because of being disappointed in the past? Our God is faithful to fulfill his promises. He will never let us down. We can learn to count on him!

## ***God’s Transcendent Qualities – Different from Human***

God is personal, but at the same time He is fundamentally “other” than any human being. He possesses various characteristics that no human being could share.

### ***God is Transcendent – How big is your God?***

The Bible also teaches that God is fundamentally different from any human being – that He *transcends* humanity. He is able at the same time to be in all places, know all things, and do anything He chooses. Above all – He is *holy* – and essentially different from any human being.

### ***God is Holy***

- ***He is perfectly pure – without blemish***
- ***He is high, sublime, and awesome in His majesty***
- ***He inspires reverence and holy fear***
- ***He is a “Consuming Fire”***

Many seek to use God as some sort of a mascot to rally enthusiasm or invite good luck. They fail to serve him with reverence and fear. But the Bible teaches that God is Lord – and not our “pet divinity.” He is a consuming fire!



***We read of Moses' experience...***

***Exodus 24:15-18***

*“When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”*



*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29*

***Don't play with God!***

***God is Omniscient - Psalm 139***

***God knows all things – past, present and future***

*“The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.” (Prov. 15:3)*

God knows us better than we know ourselves!

***God is Omnipresent***

***God is in all places at all times.***

The Psalmist exclaims...

*“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast...” (Psalm 139:7-10)*

***God is Omnipotent***

***He can do all things!***

*Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the Earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you...(Jer. 32:17)*

# ***The Trinity of God***

## ***A Mystery beyond our ability to comprehend***



Our brains are so tiny. For us, trying to grasp the nature of God is comparable to an ant attempting to understand the theories of Albert Einstein. We can only go so far before being forced to recognize the limitations of our puny understanding. How big is the universe? How many grains of sand can be found on the beaches of Florida? How many seconds are contained in eternity? How is it possible to drive simultaneously on Route 1 North and 95 South? ☺ *Mysteries of the universe!*

## ***The Trinity of God is mystery***

The Bible clearly teaches that God is one, but it also teaches that He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each one is Divine, and none is “*more God*” than the other. To deny the trinity is to deny a basic, essential belief of orthodox Christianity throughout the years. But to try to understand it is like trying to count the stars of heaven!

## ***New Testament references to the Trinity***

- ***The Baptism of Jesus***

When Jesus was baptized, He received the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and heard the voice of the Father speaking to him.

- ***Paul’s blessing to the Corinthians***

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

- ***The Great Commission***

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)

- ***The Trinity is comparable to the unity and diversity of the Church***

“...There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit, There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

- ***Salvation***

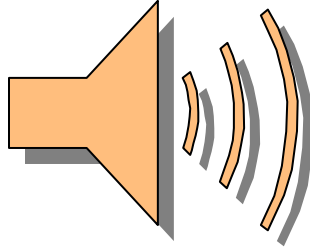
We have been “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedient to Jesus Christ and the sprinkling by his blood...” (1 Peter 1:2)



## *How is it possible for God to be “three persons” in one God?*

We present the following illustrations in order to help us better grasp this concept. None of these analogies is perfect, but perhaps they could help us better conceptualize this mystery.

### **Illustrations**



- ***Sound***

The father speaks; the Son is “The Word,” and the Spirit is the amplifier. Without a speaker, words, and microphone, there is no communication to a large audience.

- ***H<sub>2</sub>O (Water)***

This chemical combination can exist in three forms at the same time – Ice, liquid and steam: Three modalities of the same essential chemical substance.



- ***The Egg***

... has three components: the shell, the yoke and the white. Three elements of one, single egg.

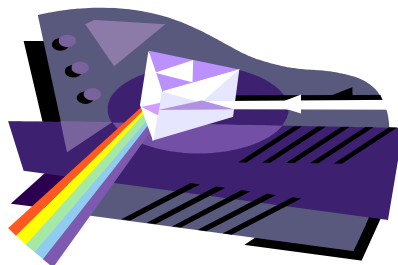


### ***The Sun***

We perceive the radiance of the sun in three ways: Light, heat, and energy. One sun; one radiance – but three perceptions.

- ***The Rainbow***

... contains various colors in one continuum. Variety and unity. Light consists of all the colors at once!



## ***Worship – The only appropriate reaction!***

So how does one respond to such a holy and awesome God, who knows all things and exists in all places at all times? What do we do when we consider a God of such love and mercy – who dwells in glorious and “unapproachable light”?

Only one reaction is appropriate:

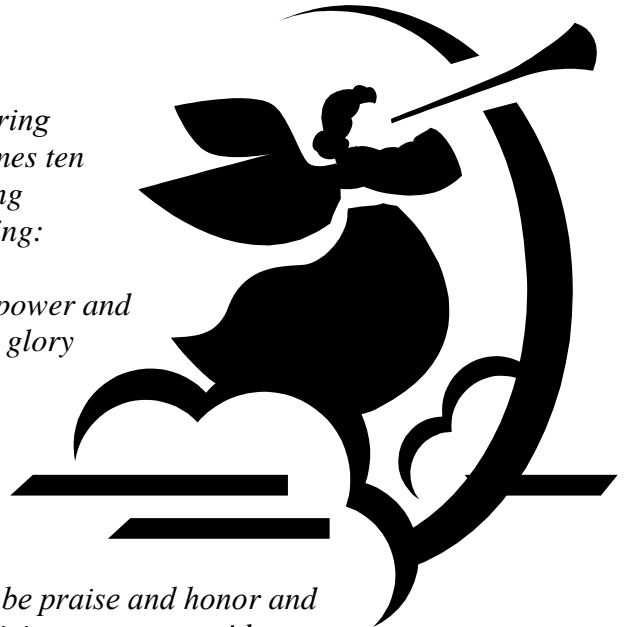
*We join with “the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircle the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sing:*

*‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’*

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:*

*‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’ The four living creatures said, ‘Amen,’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”*

Revelation 5:11-13



***Which characteristic of God do you most need to understand more deeply?***

\_\_\_\_\_.

***Prayer – Thinking of this characteristic of God, repeat this prayer***

*“Lord, I thank you because you are \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Teach me more of your \_\_\_\_\_.*

*I praise you and worship you in the name of Jesus. Amen.”*

## ***Comprehension Questions:***

Who is Martin Luther? (pp.60-61)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*Mention five mistaken conceptions of what God is like? (pp.62-63)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

*What are four “personal characteristics” of God? (pp.64-65)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

*Mention two ways that Jesus teaches us about the true nature of love? (p.64)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

*What does it mean that God is “Holy”? (p.65) \_\_\_\_\_*  
\_\_\_\_\_

*What does it mean that God is “Omniscient”? (p.66) \_\_\_\_\_*

*What does it mean that God is “Omnipresent”? (p.66) \_\_\_\_\_*

*What does it mean that God is “Omnipotent”? (p.66) \_\_\_\_\_*

*Mention three New Testament references to the Trinity. (p.67)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Mention three illustrations which help you better to understand the Trinity. (p.68)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Life of Jesus*

***Our Goal is to understand more fully the life and divine identity of Jesus***

### ***The Gospels – Portraits of the life of Christ***

#### ***The Authors***

- *Matthew* Formerly a tax collector – then disciple of Jesus
- *Mark* A young follower of Christ – interviewed Peter
- *Luke* A doctor and historian – interviewed Mary and the Apostles
- *John* The most intimate disciple of Christ

#### ***The “Synoptic” Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke***

Similar in their chronological format

#### ***John***

Different from the other three. More philosophical in perspective; emphasizing the divine nature of Christ. Includes significant material not included in the other three.

### ***What would the Messiah be like? What did the people expect?***



#### ***A Conquering King!***

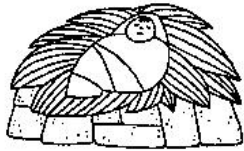
*“..And the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom...form that time on and forever....”*

Isaiah 9:6-7

For generations the Israelites had expected the fulfillment of prophecies such as this one – the great Messiah to deliver his people. Throughout the centuries the prophets had promised that he would come, *a great king, like David*, to conquer the enemies of God and establish the kingdom of God on earth. He would be a universal king, establishing a new order of peace, glory and joy. At the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry, the Romans oppressed and dominated the people of Israel. Not surprisingly, then, the Jews awaited a political savior, to remove the oppression of the despised Roman Empire. *But who would have expected someone like Jesus?*



Profetas del Antiguo Testamento



## ***Jesus surprised them all!***

But a manger? A carpenter? A poor and humble man? A friend of prostitutes and thieves? A violent and gruesome death – and by crucifixion no less?!! No one expected that glory would be preceded by suffering; before the throne – a cross. No one, absolutely no one, expected someone remotely like Jesus.



## ***What does the name, “Jesus Christ, mean?***

***“Christ” is a title – like “President,” “Officer,” “Governor,” or “Your Majesty.”***

The title, *“the Christ,”* means *“The Anointed One.”* In that era, kings were designated by being “anointed” by oil. This symbolic and prophetic action indicated that God had chosen this individual for a special role of leadership, and endowed them with the Spirit of God. The word *“Messiah”* is this exact same term in Hebrew, also meaning, *“The Anointed One.”*



### ***His name - Jesus***

*Jesus (Greek) = “The Lord Saves”*

### ***His title - Christ***

*“Christ” (Greek) = “Messiah” (Hebrew = “The Anointed King”*

## ***The Baptism of Jesus – God identifies and anoints Jesus as the “Christ/Messiah”***



Visualize a crazy prophet, dressed in animal skins, with fiery eyes, shouting in the desert.

*“Repent! Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!”* Then Jesus appears, mingling through the crowd like any other Hebrew carpenter, coming to be baptized by John the Baptist. A dove descends and a voice from heaven resounds. *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* The Lord himself has done the anointing. The Lord himself has declared Jesus the Messiah; the Christ; the King.



# ***The Earthly Ministry of Jesus***

## ***His Message – The Gospel - The “Good News”***

*“The time has come; the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the good news.”*

## ***Jesus Taught with Authority***



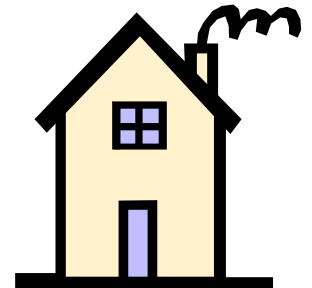
*“...the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” - Matt 7:29*

***He used “stories” – parables – comparisons and illustrations from daily life***

A comparison can take an abstract, spiritual concept and make it concrete and understandable to those who may lack formal education, but possess a simple, open and teachable heart.

*Parables drawn from domestic life – family and home*  
*The Kingdom of God is like....*

- A rebellious son who runs away from home
- Another son – well behaved – but resentful and distant
- A woman who loses a valuable coin
- An annoying friend who knocks on the door at inopportune moments
- A thief in the night



*Parables drawn from the workplace – Agriculture and Business*  
*The Kingdom of God is like....*

- A shepherd who loses a sheep
- A dishonest employee
- A tree that fails to give fruit
- A lazy worker
- A contractor who builds on sandy soil
- Various types of seed and soil
- A mixed catch of fish
- Separating the sheep from the goats

## ***Jesus preached sermons***

The most famous is *“The Sermon on the Mount”* (Matthew 5-8).

## ***Jesus delivered prophecies*** (Mark 13; Matthew 25)

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, the end of the world, and his second coming.

## ***Jesus calls the disciples -- - Intensive Training!***

Jesus did not minister alone. He called a group of men, mostly from humble origins, to follow him and learn from his example. They were called the “Disciples.” They walked with Jesus; they ate with Jesus; they even fought with him from time to time! Through it all, Jesus “rubbed off” on them!



***“Disciple” = Apprentice; Student***

## ***Jesus Performs Miracles and Exorcism***

*Miracles demonstrate vividly Jesus’ identity and authority! They proclaim – “The Kingdom of God has arrived!”*



### ***The Miracles of Jesus***

- He cast out demons
- He touched lepers
- He healed the blind, lame, and mute
- He changed water into wine
- He multiplied the loaves and fishes among thousands
- He walked upon the waters
- He restored a severed ear
- He calmed a storm
- He provoked a miraculous catch of fish
- He had Peter find a coin in a fish’s mouth
- He raised the dead!



## ***Jesus confronted the corrupt religious establishment***

***Pharisees and Scribes*** –Religious leaders dedicated to the strict legalistic obedience to the Old Testament ceremonial law.

- They fasted two days a week – minimum
- The memorized scripture
- They obeyed the ceremonial laws
- They invented an even more elaborate legal code
- They became arrogant
- They used their power to oppress the people and reinforce their social position.

Envious of Jesus, they accused him of being lascivious and gluttonous, a “friend of prostitutes and sinners.” Ultimately, they arrested him and manipulated the Roman authorities into crucifying him on the cross.

## ***The Suffering of Christ (Holy Week)***

The last scene of a movie. The final note of a symphony. The dying words of a loved one. The last inning of a baseball game. Almost always, *we save the most important for last.*

Likewise in the life of Jesus. Almost half the gospel narratives are devoted to the final week of Jesus' earthly life; coming to a climax with his death and resurrection. We will briefly touch the principal events of this final week.

### ***The “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1-11***

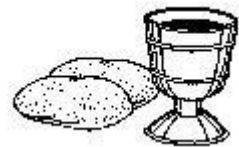
Exclamations! Leaps of joy! Children shouting! A truly “holy” chaos! Jesus arrives in Jerusalem.

In place of the traditional white stallion, used in war, Jesus arrives in peace and humility, mounted upon a donkey, fulfilling old Testament prophecy -



*“Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

*Zechariah 9:9*



### ***The Last Supper – Mark 14:12-31***

***The Last Supper = The Passover Meal - Jesus becomes the sacrificial lamb!***

Remember the night in which the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt? Remember how their lives were spared as the angel of death passed through the city, leaving dead the first born son of each family? Every family killed a lamb and smeared the blood on the doorframe of their home. From that night, the Israelites celebrated the feast which commemorated that salvation - *The Passover.*

The annual passover meal served to memorialize this salvation, through the blood of the sacrificed lamb. Jesus now sits to eat with his disciples, explaining, “This wine represents my blood; and this bread represents my body. I am the lamb of God. I lay down my life for you..”

What parallel do we see between Jesus' sacrifice and the Passover story?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.



## ***The Crucifixion – Luke 23:32-49 – A sacrifice for our sins***

*“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)*

### ***Jesus died – the lamb of God – in our place***

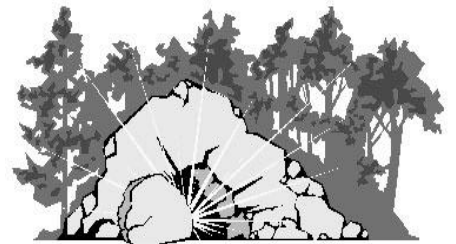
The Bible provides several examples of sacrifice – in which one dies in place of another.



- An animal died in the garden of Eden to provide skins to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, after their sin.
  - A ram died in place of Isaac
  - A lamb was slaughtered and blood used on the doorframes to save the Israelites on the night of the Exodus.
- Thousands of animals were sacrificed in the tabernacle and temple to pay for the sins of the people of Israel.

## ***The Resurrection – Matthew 28:1-10***

The tomb is empty! Jesus is no ghost! After being raised from the dead he walked and ate with his disciples, allowing them to touch and feel him. *He is alive!!*



### ***Read John 21:24-30***

What does Thomas say after touching Jesus' wounds?\_\_\_\_\_.

Before Jesus' death his entire band of disciples denied him and fled. After their encounters with him after his resurrection, however, all of these apostles, except for John died to affirm their testimony:

***“We have seen Jesus. And he is alive!”***

John was exiled to an island for this testimony. The others were burned alive, tortured, and crucified for this same testimony. Would any sane person die for a lie? Of course not!



***Jesus is alive!***

# Who is Jesus – God or Man?

## **Both! Jesus -- Completely Divine and Completely Human**

The Bible teaches clearly that Jesus is the God-Man. He was crucified precisely for this claim – identifying himself as the divine Son of God. Jesus constantly spoke and behaved as if he were God Himself – in the flesh!

Jesus is not 50% Divine and 50% Human. Jesus is completely human and completely divine – 100% / 100%!

## **Examples of the Humanity of Jesus**

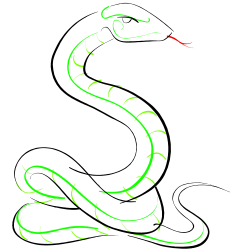
**God understands people!** Because he lived a completely human life, Jesus can identify with any human emotion or struggle we may have. He became “one of us.”

*“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14*

## **Jesus was Tempted!**

*“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are experiencing temptation...” – Hebrews 2:18*

*“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” –Heb. 4:15-16*



According to these verses, why is it important for us to know that Jesus experienced temptation?

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## **Jesus experienced fatigue after a long day of activity**

In describing his trip through Samaria, the gospel writer reminds us that “Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well...” (John 4:6)

*Asleep in the boat after a long day – Mark 4:35-38*

*“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat... a furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion...”*



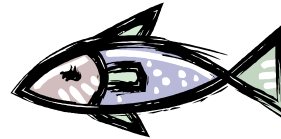
### ***Jesus experienced hunger and thirst***

He asked for a drink during his trip through Samaria.

*“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her,  
“Will you give me a drink?” John 4:7*

*On the cross*

Jesus said, *“I am thirsty.”* -- John 19:28



*After the Resurrection*

*“And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.” Luke 24:41-42*

### ***Jesus experienced Anger***

*He rebuked the Pharisees*

*“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?” Matthew 23:33*



*He cast out the merchants from the temple*

*“...In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at the tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’” John 2:14-16*

*He experienced frustration with his disciples*

*“Oh unbelieving and perverse generation! How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you?” Matthew 17:17*

***Jesus experienced Sadness***

*He wept for Jerusalem*

*“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it... ” ... ” (Luke 19:41)*

*Emotion at Lazarus’ tomb*

*“Jesus wept.” John 11:35*

*He experienced intense grief before his arrest*

*“Then he said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.’” Matthew 26:38*

*“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” Luke 22:44*

It is important to recognize that many times our image of Jesus does not line up with the reality described in the New Testament. Which aspect of Jesus’ humanity is most difficult for you to visualize?

Circle one option:

*Fatigue*

*Anger*

*Sadness*

*Hunger/Thirst*

*Temptation*

Which did you choose, and why?

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# The Divinity of Christ

## *Examples of the Divinity of Jesus*

Many cults teach that Jesus is not truly God in the flesh. Sometimes the Bible teaches this fact explicitly, and at other times the actions and words of Jesus imply this divine identity. Consider the following examples.

1. ***Jesus forgave sins***, a right reserved exclusively for God.  
(Mark 2:5-7)
2. ***Jesus accepted worship*** on various occasions, knowing that adoration is reserved exclusively for God.  
(Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 28:9,17; Luke 24:52; John 9:38)
3. ***Jesus calls God his “Father”*** in a way which made himself equal to God, for which he was accused of blasphemy by the religious leaders. (John 5:18)
4. ***Jesus said, “The Father and I are one.”*** Again, provoking the religious leaders to accuse him of blasphemy and attempt to stone him. (John 10:30)
5. Jesus explained to his disciples, ***“The one who has seen me, has seen the Father.”***  
(John 14:7-9)
6. The Apostle Thomas called him ***“My Lord and my God.”*** (John 20:28)
7. ***Jesus called the angels of God, his angels.*** (Luke 12:8-9; y Matthew 13:41)
8. ***Jesus called the chosen of God, his chosen.*** (Mark 13:20, y Matthew 13:41)
9. ***Jesus called the kingdom of God, his kingdom.*** (Matthew 13:41)
10. ***Jesus said that he would judge the world one day***, and only God is Judge.  
(Matthew 25:31ff; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
11. ***Jesus called himself “Lord of the Sabbath”*** (Mark 2:27-28)
12. The Apostle Paul taught that ***“in him (Jesus) the fullness of the deity dwells”***  
(Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9)
13. Hebrews teaches that ***the universe was made through Jesus***, and that he is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:1-4)
14. Most importantly – ***Jesus was raised from the dead and called “Lord”!***

### **15. Jesus is the Divine “Word”**

The Gospel of John says,

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”* (Juan 1:1)

Further on, John explains that...

*“the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us...”* (John 1:14)

Which means that...

*The Word = God = Jesus!*

### **16. Jesus called himself the great “I AM” = Jehovah**

Jesus said to the Pharisees,

*“Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM.**”* (John 8:58)

Upon hearing this, his enemies...

*“took up stones to kill him....”*

What so infuriated them?

Because the name, “I AM” means, Jehovah!  
Jesus was taking the name of God as his own identity!  
(Éxodus 3:14-15)

*Jesus called himself “Jehovah”!*

**¡Jesus is Jehovah!**  
**¡Jesus is God!**



### ***Review Questions: The Gospels***

What is the difference between the synoptic gospels and the gospel of John? (p.71)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Which are the three “synoptic” gospels? (p.71)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What type of Messiah did people expect? (p.71) \_\_\_\_\_.

How was Jesus a surprise to all? (p.72)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What does the name “Jesus” mean? (p.72)\_\_\_\_\_.

What does the title “Christ” mean? (p.72)\_\_\_\_\_.

Who baptized Jesus? (p.72) \_\_\_\_\_.

What does the word “gospel” mean? (p.73)\_\_\_\_\_.

What is a “parable”? (p.73)\_\_\_\_\_

Which is the most famous sermon Jesus gave?  
(p.73)\_\_\_\_\_.

What does the word “disciple” mean? (p.74)\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the role of miracles? What does Jesus demonstrate through his miraculous signs?  
(p.74)

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is a “Pharisee”? (p.74)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_..

Jesus died as a “sacrifice” for sin. Mention another example of sacrifice in the Bible?  
(p.76)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Mention four examples of Jesus’ humanity. (p.79)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention seven examples of Jesus’ divinity. (pp.80-81)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_