**Who is Jesus?**

This study has 4 lessons. Each lesson should take about 45 minutes. This time will be brief enough to study God’s word and avoid exhausting both you and your friend with long studies. You will give the person 4 lessons to reflect on “who is Jesus” and what He can do in your life. During the third lesson, you will give an appeal to accept Christ. Obviously if someone is ready to give their life to Jesus after the first lesson you can offer to help them accept Christ. However, you typically want to wait to give people time to reflect on who Christ is so they can make an informed decision.

**To the Christian-**

Leading your friend to understand “who is Jesus” is the greatest gift you can ever give them. Before you lead this study, I would like to give you a few tips as to HOW to lead this study. Below is a step-by-step guide in how to give this study to your non-Christian friend. Let us assume that you have already asked a friend if you can come to his home, to your home, or to a place of business to talk about Christ. Once you enter the home you will follow this plan below:

1. **Conversation-** Enter the home and begin with some conversation. Show your friend that you care about them. Ask about their parents, wife, child, and/or husband. Ask how their work is going. Ask how they are feeling. You should spend about **10 minutes** talking to them.
2. **Prayer-** Pray a short prayer asking the One True God to show each of you something new about Himself so that you can know Him better.
3. **Read-** Read the passage of Scripture together. If your friend cannot read, you read it for him. If he can read, make sure he reads it once and then you can read or retell the passage to him.
4. **Ask-** Tell your friend before you read that you and he will be studying three things in this passage:
* What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?
* What can we learn about ourselves and others?
* How can we apply this passage to our lives?

After your read the passage, allow your friend to talk through the passage with you. Look for SPIRITUAL TRUTHS- things we can learn about God and about ourselves from the passage.

1. **Close-** Close your time with your friend in prayer. Ask if your friend has any prayer requests in his life and make sure that you pray for them right then. Ask if you can come back next week or in the next couple of days.

1. **Invitation- (reminder)** Ask your friend after the third lesson if he is willing to surrender his life to Christ as the ONE TRUE GOD

**Lesson 1**

**Who is Jesus?**

**John 1:1-17**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11He came to His ownand His owndid not receive Him. 12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

15John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”

16Andof His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him.*

**What can we learn about Jesus? (spiritual truths)**

1. **Jesus is eternal – John (vs 1)**

Jesus has always been in existence. There has never been a time when he was created.

1. **Jesus is God- John (vs 1)**

Jesus and God are one. Christianity teaches that God is actually three persons. In other words, God is a Trinity. There is only one God, but he exists as three individual beings as well. He is Three in One. How can he be three in one? We do not know. We just know that you and I CANNOT be three persons in one being. In fact, nothing else in creation can be three in one. However, God can. This proves that there is only one God. We cannot be God, become God, or be joined to Him. We can, however, have a relationship with him. (See John 10:27-30)

1. **There is only one God- (vs 1)**

This verse reminds us that Jesus and God are one.

1. **Jesus is the light- (vs 2)**

This world can seem very dark. Have you been through a very difficult time in your life? Does it feel like the world is against you? The world can seem very evil. Jesus is the light in a very dark place. Just as a candle brings comfort and vision in a very dark room, Jesus gives light and meaning to this world.

1. **Jesus made the world- (vs 10)**

Jesus was part of the creative process of the world. He not only loves you, but he also created everything around you. (See Genesis 1:1-2)

1. **Jesus wants you to become His child (vs 12)**

Jesus loves everyone (John 3:16), but he doesn’t call everyone in the world his child. However, for those who surrender their life to Him, the relationship changes. As a Father protects a child, Jesus will do the same as a Father to His children.

1. **Jesus gives grace and truth in your life (vs 17)**

Deep down we are all emotionally looking for grace and intellectually looking for truth. So many people tell us so many stories about what is truth. Jesus however, brings truth. In fact, Jesus said that He IS truth. (John 14:6)

**What can we learn about ourselves?**

1. **We were made by the one true God (vs 1)**

The one true God created everything. Including you. That means he KNOWS you. We know what we create.

1. **We can have light and truth because of Jesus (vs 4)**

Jesus gives you the light and truth that you need to have a fulfilled life.

1. **Many people will reject Jesus (vs 11)**

Throughout history, many people have rejected Jesus and the work that He did. Even some of his own people rejected Him.

1. **We never have to be alone because we are children of God (vs 12)**

It gives children great comfort to recognize that their father or mother is near. It calms their fears. You and I are not alone either if we give our lives to Jesus.

1. **There is a way to find grace and truth in this life (vs 17)**

In the coming lessons we will learn how to have grace and truth in this life in more detail.

**How can we apply what we’ve learned in our lives?**

1. Think through what it means to you to be able to know absolute grace and truth in your life. What would that mean?
2. Why do you think so many have rejected Jesus in the past?
3. What does it mean that the one true God has created you?

**Lesson 2**

**John 2:1-11**

**What Can Jesus Do?**

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

4Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

5His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do *it.*”

6Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8And He said to them, “Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast.” And they took *it.* 9When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

11This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

1. **What Can We Learn About Jesus?**
2. **Jesus was 100% man (vs 2)**

Jesus went to social gatherings. Jesus had a mother. Jesus had friends (disciples). Jesus knew how to interact with others in their daily lives. Jesus lived a life with much normalcy like you and I do.

1. **Jesus was concerned about others (vs 7)**

In Jewish culture in that day, wedding feasts lasted about a week. For the host to run out of food or drink was very embarrassing. Jesus took the opportunity to help the family avoid embarrassment and be able to continue the feast. He was concerned about their needs even though the wedding wasn’t his primary plan.

1. **Jesus has power over everything (vs 10)**

Jesus was able to change the water into wine miraculously. He had the men fill the jars up completely (showing that no wine was mixed or added), and the wine that he made was the best that the people had all week (vs 10). Jesus showed that he had power over the elements. Jesus also showed later in the Gospels that he has power over the weather (Mark 4:35-41) over sickness (Mark 2:1-12) and death (John 10).

1. **What Can We Learn About Ourselves (and about the people in the story)?**
2. **It is okay to be social. (vs 2)**

If Jesus had friends and went to wedding parties, it is okay to relax and have a good time. Many people think that when they are religious they cannot enjoy themselves. Jesus proved otherwise.

1. **Jesus revealed Himself to the humble servants (vs 9)**

Did you notice that in the story Jesus didn’t reveal himself to the master of the feast? Instead, it was to the humble servants and his disciples that Jesus revealed himself. It does not matter your level in life, rich or poor, Jesus can reveal his truth to you.

1. **People began to believe in Jesus the more they knew about Him (vs 11)**

As his disciples began to walk and work with Jesus, they began to understand more. As they saw Jesus perform miracles, they drew closer and closer to understanding who He is.

1. **How Can We Apply This to Our Lives?**
2. If Jesus has power over anything, what does this mean in terms of my confidence in the things he asks me to do?
3. If Jesus has power over the earth, what does this mean in terms of his ability to take care of me?
4. Christ was concerned about the embarrassment of the host, should I be concerned about others and their concerns in this life?

**If you would like, you can take the time to read the rest of John 2. You can see how Christ cleansed the temple of people who were trying to take advantage of individuals coming to worship God. (The moneychangers were set up in the court of the Gentiles. This was the place where people from all over the world were to come and worship the Lord during the Jewish festivals. They were taking advantage of the people by taking their money from their home countries and exchanging with them less money in return. They were also selling the foreign worshipers travelers that were to be used for worship at much higher prices.)**

**As you read, ask yourself-**

1. **Is it okay to get angry when it is to protect the weak?**
2. **Why did he have such passion for the Temple? Is worship of the One True God that important?**

If you would like, you can bring these thoughts back with you in the next session.

**Lesson 3**

**John 3:1-17**

**How to Know Jesus and Have Eternal Life**

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

10Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is,* the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1. **What Can We Learn About Jesus?**
2. **Jesus knows the way to eternal life. (vs 3)**

When this religious leader came to him, Jesus plainly told him the way to eternal life. Jesus, who is God, knows how to have eternal life with Him.

1. **Jesus is setting up a Kingdom (vs 3)**

Jesus is preparing His Kingdom. Jesus is preparing a place for us to worship him forever (John 14:1-3). Eventually Christ will return again for those people that have chosen to follow Him. For those of us who have surrendered our life to Him, we will be able to live with him forever.

1. **Jesus knew how he was going to die (vs 14)**

At the end of Christ’s earthly ministry, Jesus died on a cross. This death was not a surprise to Jesus. He knew that he had come to earth to pay the penalty for our sins. He knew that he was going to pay the penalty for sins by shedding his blood on the Cross for the sins of the world (John 15:3). This was a plan that God had made before the foundation of the world. He knew that Christ would die voluntarily on a cross, be buried, and then 3 days later rise from the grave. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). When he arose he showed his disciples that He had power over all things- including death. Jesus is alive today and he wants to live in your heart!

1. **Jesus gave us the plan to be with Him forever (vs 16)**

The most famous verse in the Bible is John 3:16. Why? Because in this verse we learn how to have eternal life. Eternal life is not an endless cycle of being born and reborn. Instead eternal life is being with God (John 17:3). The King of the Universe wants us to be with Him. We cannot BE Him. However, he does want us to be with Him forever. He has given us the plan to do this.

1. **What Can We Learn About Ourselves?**
2. **Jesus was open to hearing questions so we can question him (vs 4)**

Do you have any doubts about Jesus? Are you afraid that if you question Him that Jesus will get angry? You should not be. Jesus never got angry when people who had doubts about Him came to Him with questions. We can go to Jesus with confidence whether we are Christians or not and ask Him questions. (Luke 7:18-28)

1. **You can be very religious and not know the truth (vs 9, 10)**

Nicodemus was a very religious man and a ruler of his people. Yet, he did not understand some very simple truths. In truth, when he was talking to Jesus, He was talking to God. The truth of eternal life was right in front of him but he didn’t see the truth.

1. **We must believe in Jesus to spend eternity with Him.**

Everyone wants to have eternal life. Most people try to lead very good lives in order to go to paradise after they die. Jesus reminded Nicodemus, who was a very moral man, that he did not have to be good/moral to have eternal life, He must believe in the One who is good instead. If he were to believe in Christ as Lord he would be able to spend eternity with Him.

1. **How Can We Apply These Truths to Our Lives?**
2. **Make a Choice** You have an opportunity to think through what you have heard about Jesus. You can decide that today is the day that you BELIEVE in him and are ready to receive eternal life. How do you show that you believe in Christ?
3. **Recognize that you need Jesus.** The Bible is very clear that we all have a need. Did you notice something about Nicodemus? He was very religious but the Bible does not say that Jesus counted him as one of his followers. Why not? You can be very religious and still be stuck in your SIN. All of us know when we do something wrong. If we lie, steal, cheat, are lazy, jealous or angry with someone, we know that we have done something wrong. The Bible says that when we do something wrong that is called Sin. Sin is DISOBEYING GOD. God tells us that we all are sinners (Romans 3:23) and that the consequence of our sin is that we will die (Romans 6:23). We need someone therefore to take away our sin so that we can live not in this life but in the age to come.
4. **Recognize what Jesus can do for you.** Jesus talked about being born again? Can we be born many times? The Bible says no, “It is appointed for men to die once and then face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).Jesus teaches us that if we surrender our life to him he can give us eternal life. How do we surrender our life to Him?
5. **Pray and ask Jesus to be Lord of Your Life.**  In prayer, ask Jesus to take away your sin and be Lord of your life. There is no formula or specific way to pray. The key is that you make a heart decision to surrender your life to Jesus. You are admitting to Jesus that He is the ONLY way for you to have eternal life and to live with Him forever. (John 14:6). He is also the only way for you to have true joy and a full life here on Earth (John 10:10).

**Would you like to surrender your life to Jesus right now and know the One True God?**

**A sample prayer would be something like this:** Dear Jesus, I know that I have sinned. I also know you love me. I believe that you are the only way to have eternal life. I want to give my life to you, turn from my sins, and surrender everything to you. I want to experience the joy and peace that you give. Thank you for my salvation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Lesson 4**

**John 4**

**What to do Now that You Believe in Jesus.**

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2(though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4But He needed to go through Samaria.

5So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” 8For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

9Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

10Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

11The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

13Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

15The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

16Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

17The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ 18for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

19The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

21Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

25The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

26Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He.*”

### The Whitened Harvest

27And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

28The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” 30Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

31In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

32But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

33Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

34Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

### The Savior of the World

39And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.” 40So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41And many more believed because of His own word.

42Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

1. **What Can We Learn About Jesus?**
2. **Jesus got weary-** vs 4

Jesus is 100% God but he was also 100% man. Consequently, he understands when we have moments of weariness and exhaustion. (John 4:15)

1. **Jesus was interested in everyone**- vs 7-10

Jesus was a Jew. The typical Jew did not like Samaritans. They were considered “half-Jews” because they had interbred with other peoples. Jesus, however, showed that the woman was important even though she was not a Jew.

Jesus also was a man. He showed honor to the woman by stopping and talking to her. Jesus was teaching his disciples that ALL people have equal value in the Lord- both men and women.

1. **Jesus is greater than others religious traditions** vs 11-12; 21-22

This woman had many religious traditions. Jesus was teaching her that even though she worshipped with sincerity, she was worshipping incorrectly. God wants all worship to go to Him alone.

1. **Jesus knows our hearts** vs 15-18

Jesus knew that this woman had been married 5 times and was living with another man. There are no secrets from God. He knows all of our innermost thoughts and secret actions.

1. **Jesus knew he was the Christ** vs 26

Jesus knew that He was the “Messiah” or the anointed one. There was no doubt in his mind that He was God.

1. **What Can We Learn About Ourselves?**
2. **Just like the Samaritan woman, we know when people don’t like us**- vs 9

The Samaritan woman was stunned that Jesus would talk to her. She knew that Jews looked down upon her. People can sense when others do not like them. Jesus however showed that He loved her.

1. **People are looking for relief from the struggles of life** vs 15

The Samaritan woman was tired of having to get water. The temperature was hot and getting water was hard work. Jesus however did not relieve her of her job of getting water. She still had to work long after Jesus had left the village. Instead, he gave her “living water”. This meant that he gave her the news of how to have eternal life.

1. **Even people with “great” sin can hear from God.** Vs 18

All sin is disobedience to God. Whether your struggle is lust, anger, pride, jealousy, laziness, etc, all sin is wrong before God. Jesus however looked at the Samaritan woman as a person and not just the sum of her sins.

1. **The disciples were stunned Jesus would be talking to her** vs 27

Even the people that had walked with Jesus did not understand why he talked to her. Often it takes people a long time to understand how to love everyone.

1. **When people truly understand Jesus they will tell others about Him.** Vs 28-30

This woman had probably been viewed shamefully in her town because of having so many husbands. After she met Jesus, she was so moved by what He had done for her that she went out and told everyone she could about Him. In the end, the people in her village believed in Christ. (vs 42)

1. **How Can We Apply These Truths to Our Lives?**
2. **Look upon everyone as important to Jesus- vs9**

To whom in your life could you start showing Christ’s love? To whom can you start telling about Christ? If Chris, can take the time to talk to a woman and a Samaritan, can’t we talk to others who are unlikeable as well?

1. **Give that person to whom you are ministering what they need most- vs 13, 14**

There are times when you need to help someone physically (Matthew 10:42). However, Jesus focused on the woman’s eternal needs rather than on her physical. He gave her what she needed most- a relationship with Him.

1. **Its okay to talk about sin with someone you are telling about Christ- vs 16**

People will not know they need Christ until they know they are a sinner. In love, Christ told the Samaritan woman about her sins. He knew that deep down she was struggling in that particular area of relationships. It is okay to talk about people’s struggles with particular sins, if you are willing to discuss it in love and for the purpose of pointing them to Christ.

1. **Tell them about Christ. – vs 26**

What people need to hear is about Christ. There is nothing more important than to learn how to give their life to Jesus. How can you tell others about Christ?

Tell the person who Christ is and what He has done in your life. You can do that by sharing your testimony with the other person of how you gave your life to Christ. Give people a brief 3-5 minute explanation of three things

* your life before you came to Christ
* how you gave your life to Christ
* your life now in Christ

In each of these three sections, take about one minute to explain to the other person how Christ changed you. Explain how you recognized in your life that you had to do three things to give your life to Christ- a) Recognize you were a sinner b) Recognize that only Christ could save you c) Surrender your life to Christ. If you need to, use the end of the third lesson as a guide as to what to say when discussing these three sections.

In the end, make sure you give them a chance to give their life to Christ. Follow the prayer in lesson 3 as a guide.

God bless you as you begin your journey with Christ. Our prayer is that God will use you to lead many others to Him as well.

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