



Lesson Four: An Introduction To Jesus

We are still in our first G, which stands for Gather. Remember that Gather is an introduction. So far, we have been introduced to God. Remember that God is One, and yet three persons. We have already looked at God the Father. God created all things, and so He is the One that gets to make the rules. When we break God's rules that is called sin. Sin is not doing the things that God tells us to and doing the things that God tells us not to do. In our last lesson, we saw that we all have sinned, so we all have earned the punishment of eternal death. Today we are going to be introduced to God the Son. We refer to Him as Jesus.

Help Me

Have you ever needed help before? What is one thing that you have needed help with? _____
I have needed help with a lot of things in my life! I never learned much about cars, and so I have people that help me fix my cars. I don't know a whole lot about home repair, so with a 100+ year old house, I have people help me fix up my house. Every stage of my life, I have had people help me every step of the way. Who has been the biggest help to you in your life? _____ My wife, Lysandra, has been the biggest help in my life. There are very few things in my life that she doesn't help me with. I'm so thankful for her and all those who have been a help to me.

Help is required when we cannot do something ourselves. We learned in our last lesson that we have all broken God's rules. Because of that, we have earned an eternity in the lake of fire paying for our own sins. To make matters worse, there is nothing that we can do to get ourselves out of the mess that we are in. But that is where Jesus comes in!

Jesus Is Man

Jesus was fully man. John 1:14 makes it clear that He was human, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." The Word is one of the names given to Jesus. So, John tells us that Jesus was made _____.

That means that He became human. It was important that Jesus be a man. It was man who had sinned, so it was necessary that a man take the punishment for the sin. In writing to the Hebrews in chapter 10 verse 5, Paul states that "a body have you prepared for me;". And he goes on in verse 10 to say, "we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Why was it important that Jesus be a man?

Jesus Is God

But Jesus wasn't just a man, He was also God. Let's take a look at John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." John makes it very clear that Jesus was with God, and that He _____ God. Jesus was involved in creation. What does John say

was made by Jesus? _____ Paul continues John's thought in Colossians 1:16, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him." Paul makes it clear that all things were created by Jesus and _____ Jesus.

It was important that Jesus was also fully God. Only God could pay for the sins of all of mankind. If Jesus were simply a man and not God, He could only pay the price for one man's sin. He would only be able to do a simple one for one swap. To truly be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jesus had to be God, because only an all-powerful God could pay the price for all of man's sins. Why was it important that Jesus be God? _____

God Takes On Flesh

Let's look at Matthew 1:18-25 and see how God takes on human flesh, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25. but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

Matthew tells us that Mary is pregnant. How was the child conceived? _____ Joseph knows that the child isn't his, so he decides that he is going to break things off with her. An angel shows up and lets him know that Mary hasn't been unfaithful to him, but that God was doing something special here. So, Jesus had a human mother, but He had no human father.

The virgin birth of Jesus was foretold many years before Jesus was born. The prophecy is recorded in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The virgin birth is required, or else Jesus wouldn't be God.

Jesus' Work

Luke 2:52 notes that Jesus grew up physically, intellectually, and spiritually, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." He lived a perfect, sinless life, which was required if He were going to be able to pay the price for our sin. If Jesus had sinned, He would have had to pay for His own sin and couldn't pay for ours. Paul told the church in Corinth in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that Jesus was sinless, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus never sinned, and yet He chose to pay the price for our sin.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 records for us His completed work, what is commonly referred to as the gospel, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,". What are the three parts to the gospel as explained in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4? _____, _____, _____ He died paying the price for our sin. He was buried, and our sins along with Him, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again, offering us eternal life.

Conclusion

We have been introduced to Jesus, the Son of God. We learned why it is important for Him to be fully man and fully God at the same time. In this lesson, we took a look at the work that He came to do. He is the One who has made salvation from our sins possible. In the next lesson, we will take a more in depth look at the topic of salvation.