

# New Life Vineyard

## Pathway into Discipleship

# 4

LESSON

## Who is Jesus?—Part 2

### Key Verse

*Matthew 16:15-16*

*“But what about you?’ He (Jesus) asked. ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”*

It is important for Christians to know exactly who it is that they have put their trust in. Many people have strong opinions as to who Jesus was. But opinions have to have a factual basis for them to be valid. The important thing is not what we say, it’s what the Bible itself tells us. In the last lesson we saw a clear picture of Jesus in the Old Testament, identifying Him as the Messiah or Christ. This lesson focuses on the second half of Peter’s confession: “the Son of the living God.”

Let’s look at the New Testament. Romans 1:3-4 talks about the dual nature of Jesus. It makes it clear that He is both man and God. The humanity of Jesus is seen throughout the gospel accounts. He was born of a woman and grew up among the people of that day. He ate, wept, laughed and got angry.

Beyond being fully a man, Jesus is fully God.

1. Look up *John 8:58-59*. *Jesus said, “Before Abraham was born, I Am.”* The people picked up stones at this point because they understood what Jesus had just said. Look at Exodus 3:13-14. When Moses encountered God and was being told to go back to Egypt to bring the people out of the land, he asked God what His name was. What did God tell him? Now, go back to John 8:59. Why did the people pick up stones to stone Jesus?
2. Look up Philippians 2:5-6. Before Jesus became a man, what was His nature?
3. Who created the heavens and the earth, according to Genesis 1? Now look up Colossians 1:16. Interestingly, here we see that it is God the Son who created the heavens and the earth!

4. Jesus was asked by Philip in John 14:8, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus’ response was, “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.” In your own words, what did Jesus say to Philip?

5. Who do you think has ALL authority in heaven and earth? Look at Matt. 28:18.

## Questions for Review

1. Look at Colossians 1:19-2:9. When you put these two verses together, what do they tell you about Jesus?

2. In *John 10:30*, Jesus says, “*I and the Father are one.*” What does this mean?

3. Hebrews 1:3-4 says, “*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*” What does “the radiance of God’s glory” mean? What does “the exact representation of His being” mean?

4. In John 20:26-29, the apostle, Thomas, makes the statement which gave him his nickname, The Doubter. When Jesus appears to him, Thomas’ doubts are erased. What did Thomas call Jesus?

5. Why would the God of the universe leave His throne in heaven, become a man, and die on a cross for you? Think about this: The value of something is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. What price was God willing to pay just so you could know Him? You must be very special in His eyes!

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## Leader's Guide and Related Resources

### Purpose

It really doesn't matter who most people think Jesus is or was. What matters is the Scriptural basis of their beliefs. Everyone has an opinion, but the key to the validity of the opinion is the reasons undergirding it. The New Testament has a lot to say about the nature of Jesus. He wasn't just a good person who was killed for His principles; also wasn't just a great teacher or merely a prophet. He and His disciples clearly claimed that He was God Incarnate.

### Answers to Questions

1. God identified Himself to Moses as "I Am that I Am". Jesus statement "Before Abraham was born, I Am", was understood by the people to mean Jesus was claiming to be God. They picked up rocks to stone Him as punishment for blasphemy. They couldn't throw the stones because it wasn't yet Jesus' time to die, and He also hadn't blasphemed since it was a true statement.
2. He was by nature God before He became a man.
3. God created the heavens and the earth. Col. 1 tells us more specifically that it was God the Son who created everything.
4. Jesus claimed to be the visible incarnation of the invisible God.
5. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.

# Answers to Review Questions

1. All of the fullness of God's deity dwelt in Jesus in bodily form.
2. Jesus and the Father are one in purpose and essence.
3. God's own glory shines through Jesus perfectly. Jesus' nature is the same as the Father's nature.
4. Thomas, upon seeing Jesus after His resurrection said, "My Lord and My God".
5. God was willing to pay the highest possible cost for you because of His great love for you.

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