

# JESUS, WHO IS HE REALLY?

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Who is Jesus, and what is His mission?

## BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Son of God (who is also fully God) and came to earth to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Jesus asks us to put our trust in Him alone in order to be restored to a loving relationship with Our Heavenly Father and receive the free gift of eternal life. He also calls us to help reach others with the gospel, because there is no one who is excluded from Jesus' invitation to follow.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Matthew 9:9-13:** *As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor — sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."*

**Luke 5:5-10:** *"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me — I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.*

**John 4:21-26:** *Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming — indeed it's here now — when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know*

*the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”*

*Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!”*

**Leader’s Note:** This lesson does include several longer Scripture passages. Print out the verses above or use an online source. Ask students as they come if they would like to volunteer to read this evening, and encourage them to read over their verses once or twice before it is time for them to read aloud for the group. You can often also find free online audio readings of popular passages using a simple Google or YouTube search.

## PRE-LESSON PREP

For this lesson you will need:

- **Opener:**

- Copies of the “Jesus is…” fill in the blank handout — one copy for every two students. Cut into 10 horizontal strips, making one set of verses for each pair of students.
- Extra Bibles
- Writing utensils
- Prizes are optional

- **Teaching Time:**

- The note-taking handout
- Leaders, you will also need to prep the following visual aid snacks. When we both eat and see something that corresponds to learning, it can help us ground these things in our memory. Each snack matches up with one of the Scripture passages. Go ahead and get your snacks ready before you begin teaching to make distribution easier.
  - Small paper cups
  - Goldfish crackers
  - Chocolate coins (which are actually found in most cheap toy departments, not the candy section) and / or M&Ms
  - Water bottles (or duplicate cups for everyone, filled with water)

- **Application / Reflection Time:** Your choice of materials for students during this time (please read ahead so you can plan accordingly)