

# THE ULTIMATE MAN: JESUS



## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Who is Jesus?

## BIG IDEA

Jesus is completely different and unique from every other religious leader because He has always existed, was fully God and fully man, lived a perfect life, made extreme claims and proved them to be true by coming back from the dead and ascending into heaven. All this changes us too!

**Leader's Note:** We have all been there before: so much to do or say—so little time! Some lessons are just packed with a lot of important content: this is one of those. Hey, it is Jesus we are talking about after all! It is going to be up to you to keep the conversation moving, but these are great conversations to take outside your designated group time too!

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Leader's Note:** There are several passages this week so have Bibles on hand for students to read from, or create a handout with the Scripture passages on it.

**Philippians 2:1-13:** *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,<sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>[b]</sup> being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

## OPENER

### **For the game you will need:**

- Pieces of paper with the name of one famous or well-known person on each sheet
- Tape

Before group begins, select the names of several well-recognized athlete, movie star, musician, author, etc. Write one of these names on each sheet of paper. You will need enough of these for everyone in your group. Knowing your group can be really helpful here, because it is best to stick to what interests they may share or have expressed. As students arrive, tape one of the papers on the back of every individual. Then, let them attempt to figure out “who is who” in just five minutes (it is a race!), by asking only “yes or no” questions. When time is up, end the game and check to see if anyone successfully identified their person. (It is ok if no one did: the questions asked are the most relevant part of the game).

## TRANSITION

**Leader’s Transition Note:** When you ask students what kinds of questions they asked, try to group them by the intent of the question. This is important for our segue to talking about Jesus. For example, the question: “Male or female?” is a question of identity. Other questions may be ones of occupation, purpose, deeds done by this individual, the company or community this individual keeps, etc. If you have a whiteboard, write these words or groupings where everyone can see them.

### **ASK**

- **Okay, give me some examples of questions you asked others, in an effort to find out whose name was on your back. What were these questions really trying to determine?**
- **Did anyone ask a question that the other person hesitated to answer? Or have a difficult time responding with a “yes” or a “no”? Please explain...**
- **What would be the most important one or two things you would want someone to know about you?**
- **In your opinion, from among the names you saw in this game, which one is the most important person? Why do you think that?**
- **Who do you think is the most important person who ever lived? Why do you think that?**

### **EXPLAIN**

A poll conducted by the Barna research group in 2009, revealed that while