



Introduction

Hi everyone! How's your day going? Good? Bad? Everything in between? Well, whatever your week was like, I'm glad to see you here! Today we are starting a new series looking at the life of Jesus of Nazareth. This series is intended to make us ask one simple question: Is He Worthy?

For just a second, I want you to think about something for me. What are the things in your life that you would pretty much do anything for? For some of you, that might be a sport or hobby. You eat, sleep, and breathe that sport or hobby and are always thinking about it. You get excited about it. You are passionate about it. You want to talk about it to anyone who will listen. And, you probably know a bunch of other people who get just as excited about this subject as you do!

So, let me ask you this: Is it worth it? Is the thing that you're passionate about worth all the hype you give it? Because, if you're going to pour so much of yourself into something, it better be worth it! Your time and effort are valuable, especially in the fast-moving world we live in. So, whatever it is that you spend time doing is hopefully worth it.

The answer to whether it's worth it might be yes. Maybe the joy you get out of winning a game or a match is so great, it makes all the practice worth it. Maybe the laughter you share with your friends makes all the maintenance of a friendship worth it.

When it comes to the things we care most about, there are usually reasons why that thing is worthy of our time, energy, and resources.

Tension

So, what about Jesus?

There is a lot of hype surrounding Jesus. After all, we are gathered in this room all because of Jesus. Millions of other people come together multiple times every week to talk about Jesus. We have holidays that have become huge cultural events because of Jesus. For a long time, the way we

counted years, BC and AD, was because of Jesus. People spend their entire lives studying the Bible because of Jesus. Many people have been killed because of their faith in Jesus.

We spend hours of our lives in church listening to people talk about Jesus and then discussing what they've said about Him. We take time during the day to read Scripture and to pray. We give out of our own pockets so that churches can continue to share Jesus with the community. We sing songs to and about Jesus. We try to live our lives the way He would want us to. We ask for forgiveness when we sin. We pour out our lives for Jesus.

But is He worthy? Is He worthy of all our efforts? Is He worthy of our love? Is He worthy of our passion? Is He worthy of our obedience? Is He worthy?

Truth

If we are going to decide the answer to this question, we have to ask ourselves another one: who is Jesus? Sure, you know some things about him. He was born two-thousand years ago in the sleepy little town of Bethlehem. He grew up and taught a lot of people about God. He died on a cross but rose from the dead three days later. Then, He ascended to heaven and has promised to come back some day and take us with Him.

But I guess what I am asking is, what makes Him special? Where did He come from? Why did all of this happen to Him? Who is Jesus of Nazareth, anyway? To understand what makes Jesus different and what makes Him worthy, we have to turn to the source of everything we know about Him. Any guesses? Yes, it's the Bible!

Right now, we are going to take a few minutes and dive into the Gospel of John to better understand who Jesus really is. This may all be old news to you, or it may be the first time you've ever heard about it. Either way, it is important to make sure we have the right understanding of who Jesus is.

John's Gospel is the story of Jesus's earthly life and ministry. One of the goals of John's book, he tells us in chapter 20, is that the reader may know that Jesus is the Christ. So, this is a good place to start talking about who Jesus is. Let's take a look at John 1.

By the way, John starts his account of Jesus by referring to the “Word.” Later in this chapter, we find out that when John wrote this, he was referring to Jesus. The “Word of God” is a very important theme all throughout Scripture. God created the universe with His words, there are all kinds of references to the Word of the Lord being given to His people, and more.

John was saying that Jesus *is* the Word. All throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself to His people. In other words, He teaches His people about who He is and what He is like. Jesus, who is the Word, is the truest revelation to us of who God is and what He is like.

So, Jesus is the Word, and the Word is Jesus. That being said, there are some pretty amazing things to notice about this passage. Check it out:

1. Jesus always was, is, and will be God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:1-2 (CSB)

That first verse sounds very familiar, doesn't it? “In the beginning...” John is referring of course to the first verse in the book of Genesis, where it says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Except here, John says “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John was making a very important point about Jesus:

There's a word we use when we talk about Jesus being God, and that word is “divinity.” Divinity basically means being God. When you call something “divine” you are saying it is God-like. When we talk about Jesus's divinity, we are talking about His “God-ness.”

And, if we're not careful, we can very easily believe some incorrect things about Jesus's divinity. We might be tempted to believe that Jesus only became God when He was born, or when He was baptized, or when He was resurrected, or some other time of His life.

But part of John's point here is that there has never been a time when Jesus was not. Before anything was ever created, Jesus existed. Jesus



Small Group Purpose

The purpose of this small group time is to help students think through how amazing it is that Jesus came and suffered for us. Students will hopefully understand that His willingness to suffer on our behalf makes Him worthy!

Icebreaker

- Who is your favorite superhero?
- Who is your favorite super villain?
- If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

Discussion Questions

- What does the Bible say about our relationship to God without Jesus?
- Why does it call us His enemies?
- As God's enemies, what did we deserve? What did Jesus give to us instead?
- Jesus came to serve us and give His life for us. How does that make you feel when you think about it?
- How would you feel if one of your friends died for you? How would you live afterwards?
- Do you think Jesus' suffering for us makes Him worthy of our worship? Why or why not?

Prayer Requests & Prayer



Week 2: Closer Than a Brother

John 1:10-18

Two things about our relationship with Jesus that remind us that He is worthy...

1. Jesus is worthy because He has made us _____ of _____.

- John 1:10-13

2. Jesus is worthy because He became _____ we are to show us _____ He is.

- John 1:14-18

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 (CSB)

God used this message to...

Comfort Me

Challenge Me

Convince Me

Convict Me

One thing I can do to respond is...

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