

Slide- A Bible OverView Session 8: Jesus, Who Is He?

Slide- Creation & Relationships:

- God **created** the universe
- God **created** people in His image
- **God is sovereign** (Lord of all)
- People have **disobedient hearts**
- People need rescue from God's righteous **judgment**
- God's rescue plan: a coming **Redeemer**

Slide: God's Covenants (Promises)

- God's **Covenant with** Noah
 - Rainbow-God will not repeat worldwide flood
- God's **Covenant** with Abram
 - Land, Nation, Blessing
- God's **Covenant** with Jewish Nation (Mosaic)
 - 10 Commandments (Standard for righteousness)
 - System for forgiveness (**grace**)
 - Rules for living (**grace**)

Slide: The Struggle to Obey

- Hebrews enter the Promised Land
- Judges: 300 years & sin cycles
- United Kingdom: 3 Kings: Saul, David, Solomon
- Divided Kingdom: Israel conquered by Assyria & Judah by Babylon
- Persian King, Cyrus, allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem
- God silent for 400 years: Greek and then Roman dominion

Slide: Redeemer Arrives- Named Jesus

- Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecies
 - Conceived by the Holy Spirit
 - Born to a virgin
 - Line of promised **Redeemer** in both Mary & Joseph's lineage
 - Birth place- Bethlehem
- Called the Lord's Messiah by Simeon
- Jesus grew in wisdom and stature

Start Video- SR-08A

ABOV- Session 8: Jesus- Who Is He?
Script Facilitator

Welcome to session 8 of A Bible OverView called: Jesus: Who Is He?

In the last session we were introduced to Jesus from his birth through childhood. Again, our information for this session will draw mainly from the Gospels.

The next biblical account is when Jesus is age 30. **Matthew 3:13-17 says-**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The John who baptized Jesus became known as John the Baptist. God used him to prepare people for the Messiah. There was a prophecy about him 400 years before he was born in **Malachi 3:1-**

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me..."

We need to take special **note of verse 16.**

- It says the Spirit of God was present in the form of a dove and God the Father was present through His voice. Jesus was present in the flesh. Christians see this as an event when the Trinity was observed together. This deserves some explanation.
- Christians use the term "Trinity" to describe this concept of God being one but made up of three Persons.
- In the Old testament, the Trinity was referenced in **Genesis 1:26:** *"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."*
 - As we learned then the word for the "Us" , "Our", & "Our" is the word for God "Elohim" which grammatically is plural with a singular meaning.
- This shows the concept of a multiplicity within a single nature. Thus, God is three eternal coequal persons: tri-unity= trinity. He is one God with different roles.
 - One example to help us understand this is how water is one substance- H2O- yet can be in 3 forms: liquid, ice, or steam.
- In the letter to the Philippians, the writer puts it this way, **Philippians 2:5-7-**

*5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something*

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to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- So, Jesus is fully God & fully human but without the fallen human nature.
- Later on, we'll see the disciples were told to go out in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So, it all pieces together.

End Video- SR-08A Start - (info above: Jesus' baptism, Trinity, fully God & fully human)

Slide: Who is Jesus? He is God's Son

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16,17

- What does this passage tell us about the Trinity?
 - Jesus in person, The Father's voice, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove

*



Slide: Who is Jesus? Fully God & Fully Human

5 ...Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God... 7...made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-7

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
 - His right to be in Heaven with the Father and the Spirit. He didn't have to become God in the flesh and suffer as a human.
 - He took on flesh as a servant: God became a servant to humans- amazing! And one of His goals was to show His followers how to serve.

Start Video- SR-08B Satan Tempts Jesus

Next we'll read about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness which is about our theme of **spiritual conflict: Luke 4:1-13- * ***

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

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3 Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"

5 Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. 7 I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

8 Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! 10 For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. 11 And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

12 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'"

13 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

The three areas of temptation Jesus faced are the same ones we face. They are:

1. Physical needs & desires
2. Possessions & power and
3. Pride

Jesus did not give in to these temptations. He succeeded because He answered Satan with Scripture. In **verse 4 Jesus answered**, "*No! The Scriptures say...*" and in **verse 8**, "*The Scriptures say...*".

When Satan realized Jesus was going to use Scriptures to resist the temptations, Satan even used Scripture! Let's **reread verses 9-11-**

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! 10 For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. 11 And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Let's **reread Jesus' response in verse 12-** "*The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'*"

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So, Jesus used Scripture to counter the misuse of Scripture. This shows how Satan uses Scripture but takes it out of context and twists it for his purposes. There are many warnings in the New Testament of Satan doing this and for people to be careful so as not to be deceived.

The next recorded event is Jesus choosing 12 Jewish men to be his special followers- called his 12 disciples.

- He didn't choose rich, famous, powerful, talented men or even religious leaders. Instead, he chose common people from a variety of backgrounds and education. **Matthew 9:9-13 is an example-**

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Jesus asked them to leave professions and livelihoods and follow Him. To the fishermen, he said he would make them "fishers of men."
- Jesus had 3 years to invest His life in these men. In the end, they would be the first ones to spread the Gospel when Jesus was gone from this earth.

End Video- SR-08B Satan Tempts Jesus (Info above: Temptations, Disciples chosen)

Slide: Satan's Temptations of Jesus

Satan: *"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."*

Jesus: *"No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'" ** Luke 4:4*

Satan: *"I will give it all to you if you will worship me."*

Jesus: *"The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Luke 4:8*

Satan: *"If you are the Son of God, jump off! ..."*

Jesus: *"The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" Luke 4:12*

- What does this passage say about Satan's tactics?
 - He knows Scripture and takes it out of context and twists it to his ends.
- How should we respond to Satan?
 - Know the Scriptures! Know the truth so you can discern the lies/twisting of God's Word.
 - Example: In order for a banker to detect fake bills, they study the genuine so they can spot the fake bills. They don't study lots of fake bills in order to know what the real ones look like.

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Slide: Jesus' Purpose

Pharisees: ¹¹...“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”...

Jesus: ...“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Matthew 9:11-13

- What does this tell us about the Pharisees?
 - They think they are better than others
 - They don't see themselves as sinners
 - They are self-righteous and blind to their need for help with their spiritual sickness: sin
- What does Jesus mean?
 - Jesus can only help cure those of sin who are willing to recognize they are sick with it

Start Video SR-08C Jesus is “the Word”

In the Gospel of John, we're introduced to who Jesus is. Let's read **John 1:1-5-**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

End Video SR-08C (Info above: John 1:1-5)

Slide: Who is Jesus? “The Word”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:1-3

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. John 1:9-10

- What do these passages tell us about Jesus?
 - He is God
 - He is the Creator and has always been with God
 - Everything was made through Him and for Him
 - He is the true light and came into this world but people didn't recognize Him

Start Video SR-08D Nicodemus

Now we'll learn who Jesus is by looking at some conversations He had with different groups of people. The first conversation is in **John 3:1-16-**

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Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Back in verse 2, it's interesting to note that Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night. He acknowledged Jesus must have been sent from God. Jesus' response in **verse 3** was directed to Nicodemus' **heart-**

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

- The term "born again" indicates a spiritual birth needs to take place. Another way to word that is "born from above."
- Jesus stated that again in **verse 7**. "*You must be born again.*"
- This is logical. Basically, one becomes a part of a human family by their physical birth so becomes a member of God's family by a spiritual birth. **Verse 6 says it as-**

⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

This is about having a **relationship with God**. **John 1:12-13** words it this way-

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12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

- Jesus gave Nicodemus a picture of what He meant by “born again.” He referred back to the incident we read in session 3 where God sent a plague of snakes to punish the people for their rebellious hearts. Remember, they would die unless they looked up at the bronze snake on a pole. It was an issue of **faith**. Let's **reread Jesus' words in verses 14-15-**

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

- Jesus, here, prophesied His coming crucifixion. The bronze snake incident was a foreshadowing that people would have to look up to Jesus to be saved from eternal death. As we will learn, Jesus would eventually be lifted up on a cross & shed His **blood** so that He could **redeem** us from our sins.
- Jesus also implied that Nicodemus lacked understanding about the Kingdom of God because he was sidetracked by obedience to the law with its traditions and rituals. But, Jesus communicated real **faith** is an issue of the **heart**.
- Jesus says more to Nicodemus as we continue reading, starting again at **verse 16 and going through verse 18-**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

- In verses 16 and 18 Jesus uses the word “believe.” Since the NT was written in Greek, it's important to understand the Greek meaning of this word because our English word does not explain it. The Greek meaning of “believe” contains the ideas of “trust in”, “reliance on”, and “adherence to.” It does not mean head knowledge. Here is a story to illustrate the difference:
 - A tightrope walker walked across Niagara Falls repeatedly which amazed the crowds. He asked: “Do you believe I can safely walk back and forth again?” They said, “Yes, we believe you can!” And so he did. Then he asked them, “Do you believe I can safely push a wheelbarrow back and forth?” They said, “Yes, we believe you can!” And so he did. Then he asked, “Do you believe I can put a person in the wheelbarrow and safely push them back and forth?” They said, “Yes, we believe you can!” Then he asked, “Who will get in?” No one would get in. Thus, they believed only with their heads. No one was willing to put their life into his hands.
 - Real **heart faith** is like getting in the wheelbarrow.

Let's look one more time at **verse 16-**

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16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Note that God's **gracious** offer of eternal life is inclusive of everyone in the world who believes in Him.

End Video SR-08D Nicodemus (info above: Nicodemus, born again, tightrope example)

Slide: Spiritual Birth

Jesus: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'" John 3:5-7

- What are the two births?
 - Physical and spiritual which is called being "born again"
- What is the key to entering the kingdom of God?
 - Having a spiritual birth, where your spirit connects to God's Spirit

Slide: Who is Jesus?

Jesus: 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. John 1:13-15

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
 - He is the Son of Man who has been in heaven
 - He will die of crucifixion. From the incident in the book of Numbers, just as the disobedient Israelites had to look up at the bronze snake on the pole to live, people will have to look up to Jesus and what He provides through His death in order to live.

Slide: God's Purpose

(diagram of Niagara Falls & figure pushing wheelbarrow from left to right)

Jesus: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

- For what purpose did God send Jesus into the world?
 - So that through Him, one can have eternal life instead of perishing.

Slide: Believe- To trust in, rely on, adhere to

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(diagram of Niagara Falls & person & wheelbarrow to go from right to left)

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 1:18

- What does a person need to do to receive life?
 - Believe in Jesus with heart faith (trust in, rely on, and adhere to Jesus- get in the wheelbarrow) not just an intellectual ascent to facts about Jesus
- What is the result of not believing in God's Son?
 - Condemnation

Start Video SR-08E- Woman at the Well

Before we read the second conversation, when Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman, I need to explain a bit of biblical history.

- In our study of the Old Testament, we learned the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians. When the Jews intermarried with them, they lost their pure blood line and became the Samaritan people.
- In the time of Jesus, the Samaritans were actually hated by the pure blooded Jews.
 - When Jews wanted to travel from Judea to Galilee, they would avoid going through Samaria. They would cross the Jordan River and inconveniently go around. (see map)
 - As we read this story, we need to realize the cultural significance of this conversation: Jews lived by the Law and wanted to keep pure. Thus, Jewish men didn't associate with women, especially prostitutes, and Jews didn't associate with Samaritans. There was a class structure.
- Yet, Jesus chose to talk to a Samaritan woman and one who was a prostitute. His actions were revolutionary for His time. He was willing to minister to anyone whose **heart** was seeking God and truth, whether an ordinary person, the poor, the rich, children, women, or, as we'll now read, a Samaritan. **John 4:1-18-**

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

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10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

- Note, that although this woman thought Jesus was talking about physical water, He used the term "living water." What He offered was "a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Let's continue this conversation in **verses 19-20-**

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."

- Note: when this woman realized Jesus somehow knew about her many husbands, she changed the subject. Jesus redirects the conversation using her subject in **verses 21-24-**

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

- Note, Jesus made the point, "salvation is from the Jews."
- Note, Jesus said, "God is spirit."

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- Also, twice He says true worshipers will *"worship in the Spirit and in truth."*
- When God made us in His image and gave us a spirit, God designed our spirit to communicate with His Spirit. So, worship in our spirit means our spirit is responding to God's Spirit.
- In the book of Matthew, Jesus addressed insincere worship when He confronted the religious leaders with their hypocrisy. **Matthew 15:7-9 says-**

7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' "

- So, our **relationship with God** requires having a sincere **heart** for God and His ways. It is not based on performing certain rituals & traditions, following rules, or saying certain words.
- **Remember I Samuel 16:7b:**

"...The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Now, back to the conversation, **verses 25-26- ****

25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

When she mentioned that someday the Messiah would come to explain everything, Jesus looked right at her and said, **"I AM** the Messiah! This is an amazing declaration of who He is. He is connecting Himself to the "I AM" name for God in the Old Testament.

Let's continue reading **verses 27-30 & 39-42- ***

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

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- Because of their open hearts, Jesus stayed and taught them two days. This shows the themes of **heart, grace, and faith**.

End Video SR-08E - Woman at the Well (info above: woman at well, worship God in Spirit and truth, hypocrites & heart, "I AM")

Slide: True Worship

Jesus: ²³...*true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.* ²⁴ *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.* John 4:23,24

- What does this passage tell us about God?
 - He is Spirit- does not have a body of flesh
 - He seeks true worshippers: those whose heart wants to know and worship God
- What does this passage tell us about true worship?
 - The kind of worship He accepts is when one worships Him in the Spirit and in truth- this indicates heart faith/worship with one desiring to live God's ways: a desire to be obedient to His Words; wanting their spirit to connect to God's Spirit

Slide: Worship?

Jesus: ⁷*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸ "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."* Matthew 15:7-9

- What does this passage tell us about people and worship?
 - People can do worship actions and says words that sound good but be empty and not accepted by God because their heart is far from God.
- What are examples today of hypocritical worship?
 - When people say one thing and do another, they are hypocrites, and that can happen with outward ways of worship.
 - People must not add to what God has already given for instructions through His Word

Slide: Who is Jesus?

Jesus: *"I AM the Messiah!"* John 4:26

- Why is this an amazing declaration?
 - He is saying He is the "I AM" name for God given to Moses, thus equating Himself with the God the Father.
- What does it mean to the Pharisees?
 - They know Jesus is equating Himself with the God of their Scriptures
- What does it mean to you?

Video- SR-08F- Conversation 3 Pharisees

The third conversation we'll look at in part, was between Jesus and the religious leaders- called Pharisees. It is important to know what had just happened: Jesus had healed a man on the Sabbath which is the Jewish holy day each week. This made the Pharisees angry because they'd added laws to the Sabbath which said any work on the Sabbath was a sin. **John 5:16-24 says-**

16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. 17 In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."

18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. 24 Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

- Note, verse 24 told us three things we receive if we have **faith-**

First, we receive eternal life, which is **grace.**

Second, we are **not judged.**

Third, we cross over from death to life.

- This means new life starts now. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says this in a different way:
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- Note: in verse 18, the Jews wanted to kill Jesus because they understood, but didn't like, His claim to be equal with God.

Other scriptures where Jesus makes this claim are:

- **John 8:19-** *"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."*
- **John 12:45-** *45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.*

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- **John 14:9b-** *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*

In John chapter 8, there is another lengthy conversation with the Pharisees. We'll read several selected verses. **First, John 8:28- ****

28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he.

- He is, again, connecting Himself to the "I AM" name for God in the Old Testament.
- Note: Jesus knew He'd be crucified.

Next, verses 31-32- **

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- Here Jesus speaks to our theme of **obedience** when **He says**, "*.... remain faithful to my teachings.*"
- Our **last verses** to read from **chapter 8 are 58-59- ****

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!" 59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

- Note, Jesus said He existed before Abraham.
- And again, Jesus connects Himself to the "I AM" of the Old Testament.
- Again, their response was to try and kill Jesus because they knew He claimed to be God.

Another occurrence of the Pharisees' response to Jesus' claim is in **John 10:31-33-**

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

There are other places where Jesus used the phrase "I am..." to describe who He is. He says:

- "I am the bread of life."
- "I am the light of the world."
- "I am the door..."

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- "I am the good shepherd."
- "I am the way the truth and the life."
- "I am the vine."
- "I am the resurrection and the life."
- "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

End Video- SR-08F- Conversation 3 Pharisees. (info above: John 5 conversation & 3 things we receive with faith, verses about divinity of Jesus, John 8 & "I AM", John 10 & Pharisees know Jesus' claim & want to kill Him, the "I am"s...)

Slide- Who is Jesus?

Jesus: *"The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me."* John 12:45

Jesus: *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."* John 14:9b



- What is Jesus' claim?
 - He is God. Because is seeing Him you see the Father. He reveals the Father.

Slide: Who is Jesus?

Jesus: *²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. ²²Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father...* John 5:21-23a

- What does Jesus claim?
 - He is worthy of honor because He does what the Father does making Him equal with God.
 - He does as the Father directs
 - He has been given the task of judgement.
- What is the relationship within the Godhead?



- He is the Son within the trinity relationship.

Slide: Pharisees' Response to Jesus' Claims

³¹Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, ³² but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

³³ "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." John 10:31-33

- Who do the Pharisees recognize Jesus claims to be?
 - The know He is claiming to be equal with God.

Slide- Who is Jesus?

(graphic of Niagara Falls & person pushing wheelbarrow from right to left)

Jesus: ²³...Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. John 5:23b-24

- How do you "get in the bucket" with Jesus"?
 - Choose to have **heart faith**- real belief- in Jesus
- What happens if you do not believe Jesus?
 - You're not honoring the Father
 - You will be **judged** and miss eternal life

Jesus came into the world to make dead people live!

Slide: Who do you think Jesus is?

Video SR-09G Summary to End

In this session, we've looked at conversations where Jesus revealed who He was and what He offered people who believed in Him.

In our next session we will learn more about who Jesus is by His miracles and what He says about Himself through His teachings.

Slide: A Bible Overview

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* <https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Trinity.html>

ABOV- Session 8: Jesus- Who Is He?

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