

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH  
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101  
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2027

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

**Jesus – His Divinity (John 1:18; I John 5:20)**

If Jesus had done little more than spend His three public years of ministry teaching and relating to people, He still would probably be one of the most talked about figures in history. His outlook on life, His unbridled compassion for the losers of society and His nonviolent yet direct confrontation with pompous or misguided religious authorities are enough to seal His place in the history books. But the Bible records many other things Jesus did – things to indicate He is more than just a quirky and well-regarded human being. If Jesus' claims are true, He is indeed God.

**Jesus' Miracles (John 2:1-11, John 9:1-7; Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 8:43-48, Etc.)**

The power of God is evident through Jesus' miracles. Nothing seems beyond His ability. His first miracle is changing water to wine – the best wine – at a wedding ceremony (John 2:1-11). He heals all manner of disease: blindness, deafness, blood and other internal disorders, leprosy, withered hands, lameness, and more. He casts out demons that have powerful control over people.

He can heal with a touch. He can heal by spitting into the dirt and making mud poultice (John 9:1-7). At times, His healing doesn't require any contact at all. This is the case with the paralyzed servant of a Roman centurion. The servant is suffering terribly, and Jesus volunteers to go heal him, but the centurion asks Jesus to just "*say the word, and my servant will be healed.*" Jesus is amazed at the man's faith and does as he has been asked. The servant is healed even though he is at a distance (Matthew 8:5-13).

Another time a woman who has been ill for twelve years approaches Jesus from behind as He walks by and touches the edge of Jesus' cloak, believing that she will be healed. She is, but Jesus realized what has happened and stops to acknowledge her faith (Luke 8:43-48).

Jesus can instantly still a raging storm with a curt command (Mark 4:35-41). He can walk on water and even inspire one of His disciples to do so on one occasion (Matthew 14:22-33). As least twice Jesus feeds thousands of people with an amount of food that should feed only one or two (Matthew 14:13-21, 15:29-38). Nothing seems beyond His range of power. Not disease. Not nature. Not the spiritual world.

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Not even death.

The Bible provides accounts of three dead people who come back to life at Jesus' command. Two are described with little commentary: the son of a widow in the town of Nain (Luke 17:11-17) and the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56). The third resurrection is a bit more detailed. Jesus is called to attend to Lazarus, who is very ill. But rather than rush to his friend's side, He waits awhile. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days. When Jesus calls for Lazarus to arise from his grave, "the dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face" (John 11:44).

**Jesus' Bold Claims (John 6:35; John 8:12; John 10:11-12; John 14:6-7, 9, Etc.)**

Jesus' power demonstrates the power of God, and in addition He makes a number of clear statements to confirm it. Early in His ministry, Jesus frequently heals someone and then ask the person not to let anyone know (a request that the person rarely honors). But later, as He senses the time of His death approaching, Jesus grows bolder in His statement – most often to His disciples, but occasionally to a wider group. Among other statements, Jesus refers to Himself as the "bread of life" (John 6:30), the "light of the world" (John 8:12), and the "good shepherd (who) lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11-12). He says, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58). And just before His arrest and death, He tells the disciples: "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*" (John 14:6-7,9).

At Jesus' trial after His arrest in Gethsemane, the high priest asks Him directly: "*I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.*" Jesus replies, "*Yes, it is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven*" (Matthew 26:63-64).

**Next Week:**

Jesus' Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36), Jesus' Death and Resurrection, Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:1-11)