

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK 4: Leader Study Guide

Was Jesus Really Who He Said He Was?

-Welcome!

-Intro: Thanks for being here! Revisit last week's points

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**Exchange numbers or invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

INTRO:

Hi, and welcome to Every Track Every Week. My name is _____ and I am involved with Texas FCA Motocross through _____. I've been involved with FCA MX for _____ years and my favorite thing about the ministry is _____.

This week we will be looking at the question, "Was/Is Jesus Really Who He Said He Was?" Over the centuries, people have claimed that Jesus was any number of things; from a good moral teacher, to a spiritual guru, to God incarnate, all the way to the other end of the spectrum claiming that He was a heretic. Jesus addressed this exact question Himself during His earthly ministry and claimed to be God; it was for this claim that He was crucified. Was/ is Jesus really who He said He was? Join us this week as we find out.

-Ice Breaker Question: *Have you ever been told something that turned out to be completely wrong? How did it feel to learn the truth?*

-Question 1: Who or what have you heard people say that Jesus was or is?

****let people answer and encourage them to answer honestly...***

1) good teacher... Moral teacher... Good example... Wise...

2) prophet... Political leader... Guru.

-Question 2: Who or what did the people who saw and knew Jesus say that He was?

***ANSWER:**



1) Some said prophet, some said miracle worker... some even claimed that He was into sorcery.

2) His best friends... the dudes that walked with Him EVERY day for 3 years said that He was God. **John 6:68-69** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Question 3: Who did Jesus Himself say that He was?

***ANSWER:**

1) **God.**

John 10:25-30 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 14:9-11 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

2) **Jesus said that the entire Old Testament was written about Him.**

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

No other prophet or guru has ever spoken that way or made those claims.

-Question 4: What kinds of things did He do to prove this claim?

ANSWER:

1) **Miracles:** calming the storm (**Mark 4:35-41**), healing people (**John 9, Matt 8:14,28; 9:27,32**), walking on water (**Mark 6:45**), feeding thousands (**Matt 14:13; 15:32, Mark 6:30; 8:1, John 6**), and even raising people from the dead (**John 11**).



2) **Jesus forgave sin:** [Matthew 9:2](#), [Luke 7:48](#)

3) **Jesus fulfilled NUMEROUS prophecies that were given hundreds and even thousands of years before He was even born.** ([Genesis 3](#), [Isaiah 9](#), [Jeremiah](#), etc.)

4) **Jesus lived and died.** This is a claim that all legitimate scholars, even the liberal ones, won't argue about. They all agree.

5) **Jesus was raised from the dead.** We see this in the historical account of the bible. The bible is filled with allegories, poetry, wisdom, and historical factual stories. The factual accounts written about in the bible record the fact that Jesus LITERALLY rose from death. This is NOT a metaphor. He was DEAD. Then he was ALIVE. We also see many extra-biblical sources (historical sources that are found outside of the bible- historians, political writers, etc.) like Josephus who report about the historic event where Jesus rose from the dead. ([Matt 28](#), [Mark 16](#), [Luke 24](#), [John 20](#), [Acts 4:2,10](#), [1Cor15:3-4](#))

-Question 5: How did people in His day, respond to what Jesus did?

ANSWER:

1) **His followers worshipped Him as God.** Even his most skeptical followers, like Thomas, worshipped Jesus after He rose from the dead [John 20:28](#) Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" . [John 6:68-69](#) Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

2) **His disciples said that "He is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians) that "All things were created by Him", and that "He was God" (John1:1-3)**

3) **His opponents charged him with blasphemy** (being guilty of claiming to be God) and ultimately had Him crucified for this. [John 10:31-33](#) ¶ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

4) many of His disciples, the guys who knew Him best and walked with Him day by day and who would have had the opportunity to see Him mess up of He was going to, **many of them were killed and tortured for refusing to deny Jesus as God.** Some were stoned, some crucified, one was nearly boiled alive... And one refused to be crucified normally, since he felt that was too close to placing himself on the same plane as Jesus, was crucified upside down. People will die for a cause... People will die for an idea... People will die for an idealized version of a person who they are long removed from, but no sane person will die a brutal death for



something they know to be a lie.

-Question 6: How should these facts inform our actions and our lives?

ANSWER:

1) All theology is aimed at knowing God rightly, so we can worship Him rightly. Understanding that Jesus claimed to be God, proved to be God through His words and actions, and that His closest followers wholeheartedly believed this- even when facing cruel death gives us confidence that the historical claims of Christ are just that- historical. They happened. And because they happened, we can have joy and confidence that Jesus is in fact God, that He came and lived the life we were required to live but could not, paid the price for our failures, and then gave us His righteousness... These claims have weight and give us actual hope, because they actually happened. Jesus lived. Jesus died. Jesus rose. Jesus is God. And because this is true, for those who believe and trust in Him the promise of eternal life with God is true.

2) Michael Horton quote from his book, Core Christianity:

"To dismiss the Christian claim with a shrug is intellectually irresponsible as well as personally catastrophic. The gospel is not a philosophy that might be true regardless of whether Jesus rose from the dead. It's not a useful therapy for those who need a bit of inspiration and moral direction in a crazy world. In short, Paul says that religion is a waste of time if Jesus is not raised. "If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die' " (1 Cor 15:32). The options are stark. Jesus is either the Lord, or he is a liar or lunatic"

We've discussed who other people said Jesus is, and even who Jesus said He is... And those are important... But what matters even beyond that is, "who do you say Jesus is?"

-Lets pray.

We will meet right here next week! Same time!

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