Who is Jesus?

**Icebreaker Q**: Who do you believe Jesus is? Or: What did you grow up believing about Jesus?

Read **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God…

Q: Have you heard this verse before?

Q: Who created the heavens and the earth?

Q: Where was Jesus during this time?

Read **Genesis 1:26** Let us…

Q: Who is “us?”

Read **John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word…

Q: How is this verse similar to the first one we read?

Q: Who/What is the Word?

We are going to figure this out. It is kind of like a puzzle that we are putting together.

Q: In the verses we just read, is the Word referred to as masculine or feminine?

Read **John 1:4, 5**

Q: What do these verses say about the Word?

Read **John 1:6, 7**

Q: Who was sent from God?

It says he came to bear witness about the light.

Q: What does it mean to “bear witness?”

Q: And why is he bearing witness about the light?

Read **John 1:8, 9**

This guy, John, wasn’t the light, but he had some news to share about the light.

Q: Have you ever had some good news that you really wanted to share?

Q: Why do we want to share good news?

Look at verse 9 again.

Q: What are three things this verse says about the light?

Read **John 1:10, 11**

Q: Do you know who this is talking about?

Let’s keep reading…

 Read **John 1:12, 13**

Q**:** What does it say about those who receive him, who believe in his name?

Read **John 1:14**

Q: The Word became what…?

Q: And did what…?

 Read **John 1:1-3** again.

Q: So who is the Word?

Jesus is the Word, who was in the beginning. He was in heaven with God and participated in creation. He has always been. He became flesh and lived here on earth as a man. He came to light up the dark world and call us to him. He is the only Son of the Father and is full of grace and truth.

 Read **Luke 1:30-35**

This is another account of Jesus coming into the world. This one refers to his birth but also that he is the Son of God.

Q: What did you learn today?

I Am…

Q: Do you have any questions about the last study or anything you have been reading?

**Icebreaker Q**: What are three facts about yourself?

When you are getting to know someone, you learn about them by what they say and what they do. Let’s get to know Jesus a little better by hearing some things that he has to say about himself.

 Read **John 6:32-35**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself?

Q: Where does this bread come from?

Q: And what does this bread do?

Q: Why do we eat bread?

Read **John 8:12**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself in this verse?

Q: Does this sound familiar to anything we studied last time?

Q: What do you think the “darkness” is that he refers to?

Read **John 10:11**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself?

Q: Who are the sheep?

Read **Psalm 100:3** and **Isaiah 53:6**

Q: Do you ever feel like you need someone to guide you or protect you?

Jesus will do that for you.

 Read **John 11:23-26**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself?

Q: What does he mean that he is the resurrection?

Read **John 14:6**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself here?

Q: According to Jesus, how do we get to the Father?

Q: So can we get to God through Buddha? Or Mohammed?

Q: How about our own good works?

 Read **John 15:5**

Q: What does Jesus say about himself in these verses?

Q: And what are we?

Q: Can branches grow if they are not attached to the vine?

Q: What does he say we can do on our own?

Q: Do you have any questions about what we have read?

Q: Do you feel like you know Jesus a little better after looking at these verses?

Q: Do you believe that Jesus is what he says he is? The light of the world, the good shepherd, the resurrection, the way, the truth, the life, and the true vine?

Q: If so, how will your new knowledge and belief impact your life?

Next study we will look at what darkness is and how it applies to us.

The Dark Side

Q: Did you have any thoughts or questions about our last study?

**Icebreaker Q**: Why is it important to turn the light on when walking into a dark room?

Q: Does darkness represent good or evil?

Many books and movies present a battle between good and evil. Are evil deeds usually done in public or in private; in the dark, concealed places?

Q: Where do you think this theme of evil and darkness originated?

In this study we are going to look at what the Bible says about darkness. We read in the first study that Jesus, the Word, came into the world to enlighten everyone (**John** **1:9**). In **John 8:12**, Jesus said he is the light of the world, and whoever walks in him will not walk in darkness.

Q: What do you think it means to walk in darkness?

Let’s look at a couple verses about darkness.

 Read **Luke 1:76-79**

Q: This prophecy is referring to John the Baptist who went “before the Lord (Jesus) to prepare his ways…” John spent his life telling people that Jesus was coming to save people, forgive sins, and give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

 Read **John 1:6, 7**

John came to bear witness about the light. Remember?

Q: Based on Luke, what did John tell people that Jesus would do?

Q: Why are people in darkness?

Because of sin (the wrong things we do) in our lives. Sin keeps us in darkness and in need of forgiveness and salvation.

Q: What is sin?

Let’s look at some verses that will tell us what sin is (walking in darkness).

 Read **John 3:19, 20**

Read **Galatians 5:19-21**

Q: Look at this verse again. Do you have any questions about the meaning of these things?

Q: Do you have any of these sins in your life?

 Read **2 Tim 3:1-5**

Read **I John2:11**

Q: What are your thoughts after reading these passages?

Q: Do you see these things in our world today? In our communities? In our families?

Q: When we are involved in these things, are we walking in light or darkness?

Q: In your life now, are you walking in light or darkness?

Q: Do you want to turn from these things and begin walking in the light?

Homework: This week, look back over the last four passages and write down any and all of the sins that you have in your life or that you struggle with. Talk to God about it and tell him that you want to turn away from these things and turn to him.

Next week we will talk about walking in the light.

Walking in the Light

Q: How has the last study and reading over the verses impacted you this week?

**Icebreaker Q:** Have you ever driven somewhere and realized that at some point you were going the wrong way?

Q: If so, what did you do when you realized that?

Just like when you realized you were going the wrong way, you have realized that in your life, you are going the wrong way. You have confessed (admitted) your sins and said you want to change. Repentance means to turn from your sin and turn to God.

Read **Acts 26:20**

Last week we talked about what it means to walk in darkness.

Q: What do we do about this sin, this darkness problem?

Our sin separates us from God. That’s why we are in darkness.

Read **Isaiah 59:2a, 9**

Q: How do we get into the light?

Read **John 1:29**

Q: Who takes away the sin of the world?

Q: How does he do this?

Read **Matthew 26:6-13**

Q: What does Jesus say about the woman?

She has done a beautiful thing; she has done it to prepare him for burial.

Q: Why is he dying? Why does he have to die?

Read **John 12:24-33**

Look at verse 27 again. Jesus says “for this purpose I have come to this hour.”

Q: For what purpose is he talking about?

Look at verses 32, 33 again.

Q: Do you know what kind of death he was going to die?

Read **John 12:35, 36**

The “light” is Jesus. He is saying he will only be with them a little while longer and that they need to believe in the light. He says the one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he is going.

Read **John 12:44-46**

Q: Who sent Jesus?

When we believe in Jesus, we also believe in God who sent him. And when we see Jesus, we see God. (Heb. 1:3) And when we believe in Jesus, we do not remain in darkness.

**BUT**

Q: Why did he have to die? How was his death different from any other person’s death?

Look again at John 1:29. Remember John saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world?”

Read **Isaiah 53:2-7**

Read **Matthew 27:27-56**

Read **Hebrews 9:22**

Just like in the OT, the forgiveness of sins still requires the shedding of blood. God sent, Jesus, his son to earth to lead us out of darkness by saving us from our sins. Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb. The perfect, sinless One who takes away the sins of the world. He took your sins upon himself, the guilt and shame, and the punishment you deserved. We deserve death, but he took your place and shed his innocent blood for you. He did this because he loves you.

Read **John 3:16**

When you believe in him and obey him, he will forgive your sins, and lead you out of darkness.

Remember at the first of this lesson, you identified the sins in your life?

Q: Do you still want to turn from them and turn to God?

Q: Do you want to be saved from darkness?

Q: Do you want your sins forgiven?

You can right now. You have told me you believe in Jesus. You have confessed (admitted) your sins. You say you are repenting from your sins (your old way of living) and turning to God.

Read **Acts 2:38** and **Romans 6:3, 4**

Baptism is a death and a burial of your old life and a resurrection to a new life in the light? Like Jesus, we are dying (our old sinful self is dying), being buried (in the water), and rising again to walk in the Light, to walk with Jesus forever.

Q: Are you ready?