

WHO IS JESUS? - THE GOD (Video 8:36)**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****PRE-VIDEO:**

1. Consider establishing or reviewing Guidelines for the group and making introductions of attendees if needed.
2. If you really want to challenge people at the outset of this course, consider showing the 15-minute conversation between Alex O’Conner and Bart Ehrman listed in the Action Points of this Discussion Guide.

POST-VIDEO:

1. Jesus is the most influential person in history. As a group, discuss how other world religions view the person of Jesus.
2. As a group, discuss and try to recall the six lines of evidence (aka “six A’s”) for the deity of Christ given in this video.
3. In the video, Tim explains that Jesus claims to be God. As a group, read out loud Bible passages where Jesus affirms his divinity and discuss how he does so. Here are some examples: John 8, Mark 2, Luke 5, John 10, Matt. 14, Matt. 28, Luke 22, Mark 14.
4. Have you ever encountered someone who said, “Jesus never said he was God”? How did you respond? What did you learn from this experience? What might you do differently?
5. What is the theological significance of the name “I AM” (Ex. 3:14)?
6. C.S. Lewis said,
A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.¹
Discuss why C.S. Lewis’s three options—liar, lunatic, or Lord—present a compelling case for the identity of Jesus.
7. How will you use what you have learned in this session?

ACTION POINTS:

- **Listen:** “Did the Council of Nicea Invent the Deity of Christ?”:
<https://www.str.org/w/did-the-council-of-nicea-invent-the-deity-of-christ-1>
- **Listen to the opposition:** Alex O’Connor and Bart Ehrman claim in a sophisticated way that Jesus never claimed to be God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C96FPHRTuQU>

1. C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperCollins, 2001), 52.

WHO IS JESUS? - THE MAN (Video 13:06)**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****PRE-VIDEO:**

1. Ask for feedback or reviews on the Action Points from last week.
2. Recall the major takeaways from the previous week.
3. Share any new stories involving use of the content.

POST-VIDEO:

1. In the video, Alan used the illustration of a ladder. As a group, discuss and list some religions that are structured around a “ladder system”—where individuals must climb or work their way toward salvation. When have you been tempted to believe this lie?
2. Alan states that “Everyone feels guilty because they are guilty.” What are some Bible verses that speak to the guilt or sinful condition of humanity? As a group, find and discuss passages that highlight this theme.
3. Discuss why understanding the depravity of humanity is essential when considering the person and work of Jesus. How would you describe the state of humanity to someone who is hostile to the idea that man is by nature sinful? As a group, think of questions you would ask of someone making the claim that humans are basically good by nature.
4. Practice: Take turns with a partner trying to explain John 1:1–2, 14 as you would to a friend, especially in terms of what it reveals about the nature and identity of Jesus. What key truths does this verse communicate, and why are they important in understanding who Jesus is?
5. In the video, Alan uses a superhero illustration to explain who Jesus is *not*. Why is it important to have a clear and accurate understanding of who Jesus is *not*, as well as who he *is*?
6. Consider Alan’s explanation of the hypostatic union and try to answer out loud this question: “How is Jesus 100% God and 100% man? He’s 200% of something?” (Have participants practice this in groups or come up with an answer together. The question worded this way contains some misunderstandings, so maybe consider what questions you might ask someone in order to explain the hypostatic union.)
7. Read Hebrews 2:17. According to this verse, why was the incarnation necessary? Discuss with the group the significance and the good news of the incarnation.

ACTION POINTS:

- **Read:** “Nine Early Church Fathers Who Taught Jesus Is God”: <https://www.str.org/w/nine-early-church-fathers-who-taught-jesus-is-god>
- **Watch:** “Why Is Jesus Different?”: <https://www.str.org/w/why-is-jesus-different-video->

WHO IS JESUS? - THE RESCUE (Video 15:34)**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****PRE-VIDEO:**

1. Ask for feedback or reviews on the Action Points from last week.
2. Recall the major takeaways from the previous week.
3. Share any new stories involving use of the content.

POST-VIDEO:

1. What did Jesus claim his mission was? Read Matthew 20:28, Luke 19:10, and John 3:17 together (and consider asking the group for additional Scripture passages). Where do you see our culture today describing or interpreting Jesus' mission? How do these views compare or contrast?
2. As a group, explore and discuss how Jesus' stated mission differs from the teachings of other religions.
3. In the video, Robby explains that humanity needs to be rescued. What does he say we need to be rescued from?
 - a. Robby said, "Jesus came to rescue us from the Father." Did that statement strike you as odd when you first heard it?
 - b. How does this compare to what you've been taught? Why is it important to understand who we're being rescued from?
4. Robby says, "His justice demands satisfaction." Discuss this. Then, practice: Have the group come up with a few sentences that can articulate this well.
 - a. Why can our own lives never fully satisfy God's justice? Discuss this with the group. Consider reading James 2:10 and Romans 3:23. Get personal: Ask each member of the group to share a reason they deserve God's justice. (Make sure to celebrate the fact that salvation doesn't depend on us.)
5. Thinking deeper: Sometimes people think that a high view of God's law leads to legalism. How does a high view of the law actually produce reliance on grace alone? (Hint: A low view of the law is a lowering of God's standards and makes us think that we can achieve on our own merits.)
6. The video shared two key ways Jesus rescued us. As a group, discuss what those two points were.
7. Robby explained that Jesus came to rescue us from the curse of sin and death. He also highlighted the key differences between Adam and Jesus. Discuss with your group what those differences are and why they matter.
8. Practice: With a partner, try to articulate an answer to the question: Why did Jesus have to die? Include what you've learned so far in this course.

ACTION POINTS:

- **Listen:** "How Do You Know Jesus Was Perfect?": <https://www.str.org/w/how-do-you-know-jesus-was-perfect->
- **Listen:** "Must Jesus Have Sinned to Be Fully Man?": <https://www.str.org/w/-strask-july-12-2021>
- **Read:** "The Danger of Thinking You're Morally Good": <https://www.str.org/w/the-danger-of-thinking-you-re-morally-good>

WHO IS JESUS? - THE WAY (Video 12:18)**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****PRE-VIDEO:**

1. Ask for feedback or reviews on the Action Points from last week.
2. Recall the major takeaways from the previous week.
3. Share any new stories involving use of the content.

POST-VIDEO:

1. Is it arrogant or narrow-minded to say that Jesus is the only way? Have you ever been called something like this for holding the view? Consider sharing your story. How did you respond?
 - a. As a group, think about questions you might ask when someone calls you a name.
(Suggestion: 1. Ask them what they mean and why. The reasons they give will help to advance the conversation. I.e., “You think you are right.”
2. Think about the difference between having a “narrow” view and being “narrow-minded.”
2. Practice/role-play: Partner up. One partner take on the role of the questioner: “How can you say Jesus is the only way?” The other partner take on the role of the Christian. Try to balance grace with truth. Afterwards, please share feedback with the group.
3. As a group, discuss how other religions view Jesus, salvation, and the afterlife. How do these perspectives compare and contrast with the teachings of Christianity?
4. What is the definition of relativism? How do you see it shaping people’s beliefs and values today?
 - a. Share encounters you’ve had with people who have relativistic views. How did it go and what did you learn?
 - b. Discuss why it might be challenging to have a conversation about Jesus with someone who holds a relativistic worldview. What are some questions you could ask to get beyond this obstacle?
5. In the video, Jon discusses the depravity of man. From your experience, do you think most people in our society believe that sin exists within all of us? Why or why not? How might this belief—or lack of it—make it more challenging to explain why we need Jesus? Have you found any ways to graciously help people see this? Please share your experience and thoughts.
6. Assignment: Write out (as a group or as individuals) the gospel. Try to share the gospel in the context of the larger story of reality so the good news can be seen for what it is—for individuals when they die and for all of us right now prior to Christ’s return. Share feedback along the way to keep it both simple and robust.
7. How will you use what you have learned in this course?

ACTION POINTS:

- **Read:** “One Way or Any Way?” Part 1 and Part 2:
<https://www.str.org/w/one-way-or-any-way-part-1> and <https://www.str.org/w/one-way-or-any-way-part-2>