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discussion guide for october 8th

"I Believe in Jesus"

Matthew 16:15



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ Launch the Discussion (11:00 am)

On page 65 of Pastor Tom's book we read a quote from C. S. Lewis*: *"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him. (Jesus): I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. ... You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. ... Let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*

- How would you describe Jesus to someone who acknowledged Him historically, but not as the Bible portrays Him?

*C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (New York: Macmillan, 1952), 40-41.

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➤ Guide the Discussion (11:10 am)

Imagine Jesus standing here asking you, "Who do you say I am?" How would you answer? Today we want to see how the Bible answers that question. Pastor Tom mentioned three biblical truths about Jesus.

1. Jesus is Everything it Means to be God
Read the passage, then discuss how each supports truth #1. What are the implications of each for believers?
 - John 1:1-3; 1:18 (p. 1391-DSB*)
 - Colossians 1:15-20 (p. 1576-DSB*)
 - Colossians 2:8-12 (p. 1577-DSB*)
 - John 14:6-9 (p. 1418-DSB*)
2. Jesus is Everything it Means to be Human.
Read the passage, then discuss how each supports truth #2. What are the implications of each for believers?
 - John 1:1-2; 1:14 (p. 1391-DSB*)
 - Matthew 1:16-18 (p. 1247-DSB*)
 - Luke 2:40-43 (p. 1336-DSB*)
 - Luke 4:13 (p. 1340-DSB*)
 - Hebrews 4:14-16 (p. 1613-DSB*)
3. Jesus Lives to Bring our Needs to the Father's Attention.
Read the passage then discuss how each supports truth #3. What are the implications of each for believers?
 - John 1:16-18 (p. 1391-DSB*)
 - Acts 2:32-33 (p. 1437-DSB*)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:16-19 (p. 1529-DSB*)
 - Hebrews 7:23-35 (p. 1617-DSB*)

**"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

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➤ Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)

You are Jesus' treasure. The ultimate "free diver" dove down from the heights of heaven, descending into even the deepest, darkest experiences of human life, and rose back up to heaven with your life in his hands. One day He will return to take you to where He now is. How firm is your belief? Check the statements below you are ready to live and die for.

- Are there any you cannot check?
- How will these beliefs affect your life this week?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord;
- I believe He was, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
- I believe He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
- I believe the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
- I believe from heaven He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this discussion.
- Pray for other shared needs from the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and fill them in on group time?*)

Go Deeper: Use the "Going Deeper" section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

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➤ Going Deeper

Last Sunday you explored Jesus as fully God and fully human. These verses and questions will help you solidify your beliefs about Jesus.

Monday, October 9: Read John 14:1-6 (*p. 1418-DSB**). How can you know God? How can you be sure of your eternal destiny?

Tuesday, October 10: Read Ephesians 1:2-3 (*p. 1559-DSB**). What "spiritual blessings" has God bestowed on you "in Christ"?

Wednesday, October 11: Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (*p. 1613-DSB**). In order for Jesus to be tempted like we are, He must have been fully human.

Thursday, October 12: Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (*p. 1538-DSB**). Does the fact that Christ knew no sin diminish the intensity of His temptations to sin in your mind? Remember, He was fully human and tempted just like we are.

Friday, October 13: Read John 14:23-27 (*p. 1419-DSB**). How can you have inner peace in this life?

*"DSB" refers to the "Discovery Study Bibles" available in common ground.