

Community Group Curriculum  
for the week of April 28, 2013  
"Jesus, the Son of God"

**BIG PICTURE**

Who is Jesus? C.S. Lewis summed it up best with this quote: *"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. But 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."* So, once again, who is Jesus to YOU?

**LET'S DIG IN!**

1. Read Mark 8:31-38. In an encounter with Peter, Jesus gave the Son of Man's job description.
  - a) What things did Jesus say He would do and how did Peter respond? Why do you think Peter responded as he did?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Jesus' response to Peter was very strong. What had Peter done wrong and how was Jesus' response an act of love?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) Jesus told His followers they would do four things as they walked with Him day by day: 1) deny self, 2) take up his cross, 3) follow Him, and 4) be willing to lay down their lives for him and the gospel. Fast forward to today and your life. What does it look like, in an ordinary day of your life, for you to seek to do these things?
  
2. Read Matthew 17:1-13. Six days after Jesus' famous exchange with Peter, He takes three of His closest disciples up on "a high mountain."
  - a) Describe what happened to Jesus while they were there? What is significant about the appearance of Moses and Elijah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) In verse 5 God declared who Jesus is and what we are called to do in response. In what ways can we live out this calling on a daily basis?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) How is this typical of most first-hand encounters with God throughout Scripture (Exodus 3:5-6, Isaiah 6:1-5, Daniel 10:4-8, Acts 9:1-7)?

d) Who was the "Elijah" who already had returned? Why was the emphasis on Elijah important?

3. Read John 11:1-44.

a) Describe this event. Why do you think John stresses Jesus' love for Lazarus and his sisters in this account?

b) Despite His love for Lazarus, why doesn't Jesus go immediately when he learns of the sickness?

c) Jesus' disciples warn Him that going to Bethany, less than two miles from Jerusalem, is highly dangerous (v. 8). What is the point Jesus makes in response (vv. 9-10)? What does Jesus' response tell you about His character and priorities (vv. 9-11)?

d) Compare John 11:4 to John 9:3. Is this a frequent truth about affliction? Or is this principle unique to Jesus' ministry? Share your views with the group.

e) The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs before His own resurrection. What does it reveal about:

1) Jesus' character and personality:

2) Jesus' mission:

3) Jesus' identity:

### **PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!**

- Pray for people in Northwest Bakersfield to see a clear picture of who Jesus really is.
- Ask Jesus to set the course of your life direction based on who He is, not who you are.
- Declare without hesitation that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life and thank Him for the hope of heaven that belongs to all who believe in Him.

### **AND NOW FOR SOME FINAL THOUGHTS**

Who is Jesus? In the Lower Story, Jesus is a remarkable man in history whose teaching continues to this day and provides a foundation for moral and ethical behavior. But if we are to find our place in the Upper Story, he has to be more than just a good guy. Everything He did on earth was to convince mankind that He was the only solution to our separation from God. That He was God Himself, living among us and willing to die for us. He is Jesus, the Son of God.