WHO IS JESUS?

hung all



Alleria

ANSWER KEY

Cover artwork by Vincent M., former Crossroads student



Copyright © 2021 by Crossroads Prison Ministries. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

Images and ideas within this course have been excerpted from BibleProject's video miniseries "Luke-Acts." The Luke-Acts miniseries is copyright © 2017, 2020 by BibleProject and is available for viewing at www.bibleproject.com. All BibleProject videos and resources are provided for free and any derivative works are to be provided for free to others. Crossroads is deeply thankful to BibleProject for generously granting Crossroads permission to use their materials for this course.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version[®], NIrV[®] Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. www.zondervan.com. The "NIrV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.[™]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Study Tools	4
Glossary of Terms	5
Lesson 1	8
Lesson 2	12
Lesson 3	16
Lesson 4	21

INTRODUCTION

In this course, students will read about Jesus' life on earth, as recorded in the book of Luke. They will learn who Jesus is, what He did, what He taught, and how He saved the world. They will also learn what the story of Jesus' life means for each of us today.

STUDY TOOLS

Throughout this course, students will be provided with the tools listed below to assist them in their studies. These tools provide ways that you can interact with your students.



CONVERSATION BOXES: We have included some spaces throughout the lessons that we call **conversation boxes**. Students can use these boxes to write questions and thoughts they have about the lesson or about life. You can also respond to a student in any space that the student has not filled.



ACTION STEPS: At the end of each lesson, we have included a challenge called an **action step**. It asks the student to apply what they have learned. If they feel that they need help or encouragement to complete it, they may simply write down what they plan to do. You can follow up with the student by asking if they have completed it.

We have included blank spaces labeled "My Notes" throughout the answer key. You can use these spaces to jot down notes relating to a specific question or theme that you want to remember when reviewing future lessons. These could include encouraging Bible verses that come to mind, your own answers to the questions, relevant stories from your life, or insights from students that you may want to share with other students.

Glossary of Terms

Each lesson contains Bible names, terms, and ideas that may be new to students. We will do our best to provide definitions that are easy to understand. The list below includes all of the terms found in this course. In each lesson, we have included an asterisk (*) the first time each term appears.

Ancestor – A person's relative who lived in the past but is no longer living.

Baptize — To make someone pure or clean in their heart, usually through the use of water. In Jesus' time, people were baptized by being lowered into a river and brought back up again. Being baptized is a sign that, just as water washes away dirt, God washes away our sins.

Book of Luke – One of four books of the Bible written about Jesus' life. It was written for people who were not from Israel, called Gentiles.

Commandment – A teaching, law, or rule from God that must be obeyed. Christians follow God's commandments because they love Him.

Corrupt – Characterized by dishonest or evil behavior.

Covenant – An agreement or contract between two people or groups of people.

Crucify – To put someone to death by nailing or tying their wrists or hands and feet to a cross.

Disciple — Someone who traveled with a teacher in order to learn from him. Jesus first had twelve disciples, and more joined Him later. Today, the word is used to refer to anyone who is following Jesus.

Empire – A group of territories or countries under one ruler. In Jesus' time, Rome ruled over all the countries around the Mediterranean Sea, including Israel. These countries were all part of the Roman Empire.

Eternity – An endless amount of time with no beginning or end.

Generosity – The act of giving money, help, kindness, etc., especially more than is usual or expected.

Generous – Willing to give money, help, kindness, etc., especially more than is usual or expected.

God's glory – The presence of God as seen or experienced by humans. The Bible often describes God's glory as a light that shines brighter than anything else on earth. The term also refers to God's power, beauty, and greatness.

God's people — Anyone who decides to follow God. Throughout most of the Bible, this phrase is used only to describe the people of Israel, which is the nation God created from Abraham's family. The parts of the Bible written after Jesus came to earth promise that anyone can become part of God's people through faith in Jesus Christ.

Grace — Kindness or help that is given when it is not deserved. God shows grace to those who follow Him, even though they have done nothing to earn it.

Greed – A selfish desire to have more money or other things than necessary.

Holy Spirit – One of the three persons of the Trinity of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in Christians, guides them, and gives them new life.

Levite – Someone who did the daily religious work at the temple. They performed blessings and sacrifices and taught the people God's laws.

Messiah — "The anointed one." When Israel first became a kingdom, its kings were anointed meaning they had oil poured on their heads—when they took power. God promised through the prophets that a Messiah would come to earth, be anointed as King, and rule over Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:12–13; Daniel 7:13–14).

Money changer — Someone whose business is to help people trade one kind of money for another. In Jesus' time, people came from many different countries to worship at God's temple. They needed to have the right kind of money so they could buy things to sacrifice to God.

Old Testament – The first part of the Christian Bible. It is made up of thirty-nine books, which contain God's laws, the writings of the prophets, and the history of God's people before Jesus was born.

Parable — A simple story that teaches a lesson. Jesus told parables to help His followers understand what is right and wrong in God's Kingdom.

Passover – A holiday that celebrates God's people being freed from slavery in Egypt.

Prodigal – Someone who wastes a lot of money and time and does not value what they have.

Prophet — Someone who brought messages from God to His people. Seventeen books of the Bible were written by prophets (for example, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Hosea). These books contain many promises God made to His people that came true years later.

Prophetic protest – The actions of a prophet, on behalf of God, that point out evil things that a person or group (usually one in power) is doing.

 ${\bf Rebel}$ — To resist or disobey someone who has authority or control (verb); someone who does not obey authority or who fights against the government (noun).

Rebellious – In opposition or disobedient to someone who has authority or control.

Repent – To turn from sin and promise to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

Sacrifice — To give something to God. For many years, the people of Israel sacrificed animals in the temple as a way to receive forgiveness from God. Jesus later became the final sacrifice, making all other forms of sacrifice unnecessary.

Samaritan – A person born in Samaria. The Samaritans were once part of the nation of Israel, but they separated from Israel, created their own religion, and married people from other nations.

Savior – Someone who saves others from danger or death.

Scroll — A roll of paper or animal skin on which something is written. The books of the Bible were originally written on scrolls.

Sinner — Anyone who hurts God, others, or even themselves through actions, thoughts, or spoken words that go against God's plan.

Synagogue – A building in a town or city where God's people gathered to read and study Scripture and worship God.

Temple — The place where the people of Israel worshiped God. The temple was a beautiful building in the middle of the city of Jerusalem. It was special because God's people could meet with Him there and be in His presence.

Tempt – To encourage someone to do something wrong, bad, or unwise, promising them something good in return.

LESSON 1: A King Is Born

1. What are some problems people have that they hope God will fix?

Students may list things like money problems or broken relationships. They may also list problems specific to being in prison or other issues that directly affect them. Some may ask why God has allowed them to have a miserable life or even why they are in prison. Acknowledge their answers and be careful not to criticize them.

2. Have you ever gotten something that you waited a long time for? What did that feel like?

Students will often mention upcoming parole dates or other similar news. Be sure to celebrate those events. Consider sharing a related story of your own in the lesson or your letter.

3. What was God sending Zechariah's son to do for His people (see Luke 1:16-17)?

The Scripture passage says that John was going to bring the people of Israel back to God and prepare them for Jesus' coming. John would also help teach the people how to do what is right in God's eyes and restore peace to their families. Students' answers should reflect the general idea of the passage.

4. How does God show His love for us by giving us what we need, not what we want?

Some students may share examples from their own life or what they have heard from others about their experiences. Others may quote Scripture. Consider sharing some examples from your own life.

NOTE: God cares deeply for us, and Scripture promises us that God knows our hearts and lives even more perfectly than we do. If a student disagrees with the principle in the question, point them to one of the following passages about the way God provides: Matthew 6:8; Matthew 6:25–34; Proverbs 21:2. These Scriptures remind us that God is in control and knows what is best for us. Students may need to be reminded to trust God when they feel He is not answering their prayers the way they want them to be answered. 5. What are some other things we can learn about who Jesus is from God's message to Mary (see Luke 1:30–37)?

The angel told Mary that Jesus would be the "Son of the Most High." He would take over David's throne. He would reign over Jacob's descendants (God's people) forever, and His Kingdom would never end. Students should mention most of these. If a student had trouble answering the question, point out that God wanted Mary to know that Jesus would eventually rule over all of God's people, and He also rules over our lives if we are following Him.

6. What do you think it would be like to receive such an important and surprising message from God?

Many students will say that they would be shocked or afraid. Some will indicate that they would feel blessed or special.

NOTE: In some charismatic Christian groups and the Islamic faith, dreams and visions are more common. Students from those backgrounds may need help understanding that what Mary experienced was more than just a dream or a vision—it was a real message sent from God.

7. What did Mary remember that God had done for humble and hungry people in the past (see Luke 1:51–53)?

Mary's song emphasized God's care for the humble and the hungry. He honors those who are scorned by the world, and He provides for His children. Students may simply copy Mary's statements directly from the passage; if they do, encourage them to reflect on what God's announcement must have meant for Mary and what it means for us.

8. How can remembering the things God has done in the past give us strength to face the future?

Remembering specific things that God has done can help us to lean on Him in the face of uncertainty. When we recall answered prayers and ways God has watched over us in the past, we can confidently place our trust in Him for the future.

NOTE: The word "remember" shows up approximately 230 times in the Bible, noting the ways that God remembered His people and encouraged them to remember His words and actions.

9. What would you expect to happen when a king is born? Who would be there? Where would it take place?

Students' answers will depend on their background and life experience. Many will mention a castle, a huge celebration, or the presence of important people. By comparing Jesus' birth with expectations for a king's birth, students have the opportunity to think more deeply about the surprising circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus.

10. In your own words, what did the angel tell the shepherds (see Luke 2:9–12)?

Writing the angel's message in their own words will help them think about its meaning and context. It should give them an awareness of the hope this message provides for God's people. If they simply write down the Scripture passage, encourage them to try to put it in their own words.

11. Why do you think God planned Jesus' birth to happen the way it did?

Some responses may reflect the way God challenged people's expectations or demonstrated His love and care for people who were considered unimportant. Some students may refuse to speculate or may not feel comfortable trying to understand God's actions. In such a case, encourage the student to consider what we can learn about God from the way He planned Jesus' birth.

12. The book of Luke shows us that God does not do things the way people expect. How did God surprise the following people in the passages you read?

Zechariah: God surprised him by telling him that he and his wife, in their old age, would have a son, John, who would tell the world about God's Son, Jesus.

Mary: God surprised her by telling her that she, a virgin, would bear a son, Jesus, who would be God's own Son and the Savior of the world.

The shepherds: God surprised them by sending an angel to tell them about the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, whom they would find in a manger.

13. How has God surprised you through this lesson or in the past?

Acknowledge the student's reflection. If you feel so led, share your own answer to the question.

LESSON 2: Jesus Shows the Way

1. What do you think people mean when they say they want to live a new life?

Many students will say that people who want to live a new life are hoping for a life better than the one they are currently living. They will note that when people talk about living a new life, they want to start over and leave behind the life that they had before. If a student seemed unsure how to answer the question, share your own understanding of it and, as an example, how you have experienced new life through Jesus.

2. How did John answer each group of people when they asked him how to show God that they had turned away from their sins?

Students may copy the verses directly from the Bible or summarize the passages.

The crowd: "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same" (Luke 3:11).

The tax collectors: "Don't collect any more than you are required to" (Luke 3:13).

The soldiers: "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay" (Luke 3:14).

3. In your own words, what was John trying to teach them?

John was trying to teach the people to think of others instead of thinking only of themselves. The core idea of this message is captured in Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Paul's words in Philippians 2:1–4 speak to the same concept: "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." 4. Why do you think God used words from the Old Testament to tell people about Jesus?

God used words that He knew the people would already know and understand. He was also declaring that Jesus would fulfill prophecy; both Scripture passages God referenced contained promises He had made to His people about the Messiah many years before. By using these Old Testament words, God was reminding the people of the promises He had made.

5. What were the three ways the devil tried to tempt Jesus?

First, the devil offered Jesus the possibility of satisfying His hunger by turning the stone into bread (Luke 4:3). Second, the devil offered Jesus power over all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him (Luke 4:5–7). Third, the devil tempted Jesus to test His power and the truth of God's Word (Luke 4:9–11). Most students will simply quote the verses.

NOTE: These three tests relate to the different aspects of humanity: the heart, the soul, and the mind. They also correspond to the Greatest Commandment—to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27; Matthew 22:37)—which Jesus kept perfectly throughout the devil's testing. Students may not recognize this, but if they do, be sure to affirm their response.



My Notes

6. How did Jesus answer the devil each time? How did His answers show that He was following God?

Each time, Jesus responded to the devil's temptations with quotes from the Bible. Jesus turned to God and God's Word for direction, which shows that He fully trusted God. Jesus' responses highlight the importance of knowing God's Word and trusting that God will do what He says. This would be a good opportunity to encourage students to memorize Scripture—either a passage from the lesson or a passage that you have relied on in the past.

7. What did Jesus say He came to do (see verses 18–19)? Write it in your own words:

Reading from the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

We have asked students to write it in their own words so they will think more deeply about what Jesus promised to do. If a student has simply copied the verses, challenge them to reword their answer. You can give an example of what the passage means in your own words to help them. 8. Based on these verses, why do you think the disciples were willing to follow Jesus?

Simon (Peter) witnessed Jesus perform the miracle of the fish when his situation seemed hopeless. Levi (Matthew) was shocked to be accepted by Jesus since his profession caused many of his neighbors to despise him. They both realized that Jesus was offering them a new life. Students will likely give answers that reflect the characteristics of Jesus they read about in the verses.

9. If everyone did what Jesus taught in this passage, how would the world be different?

Many students will point out that the world would have less hatred, injustice, and oppression and more love, equality, forgiveness, and compassion. If a student had trouble coming up with ideas, give some examples of your own.

10. What words from heaven did the disciples hear? Why do you think God used those words to describe Jesus to the disciples?

The disciples heard the words, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him" (Luke 9:35). These words were reminiscent of the words God had spoken at Jesus' baptism. At Jesus' transfiguration, God was once again confirming Jesus' authority and power and telling the disciples to listen to Him because He spoke for God.

11. Based on what you read in this lesson, who is Jesus and what did He come to earth to do?

Answers will vary, but we hope that students will be able to articulate many of the following themes:

Jesus is the King and Messiah that God had promised to send to earth. He is God's own Son, and He is also God.

Jesus came to earth to show people how to follow God by His example. He came to challenge them to live completely different lives by turning away from their sin and showing love and forgiveness to others. He came to keep promises God had made to His people. He came to bring the good news of God's Kingdom, set prisoners free, and give sight to the blind.

LESSON 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

1. Which of Jesus' teachings are you most familiar with?

Some students may write, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). Others may mention the Lord's Prayer or the Beatitudes. Some students are very well versed in the Bible and may write a long list of passages and teachings. A student's answer will give you a good idea of how much they know about the Bible. If a student wasn't able to think of anything, share a few passages you have heard many times and ask if they have read or heard of them too.

2. What do you think it looks like to love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind?

Students will likely list things like studying God's Word, obeying what it says, and sharing the Gospel with others. If a student focuses only on knowing God's laws and following them, you may want to prompt them to think about how they can engage their heart and soul in loving God as well.

Loving God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind reflects a Spirit-led desire to follow God with our entire being. It means we focus our thoughts on God's desires, not the world's (Romans 12:2). It means we rely on God's strength, not our own (Philippians 4:6; Luke 12:22–28; Hebrews 13:5–6). It means we allow God to transform our hearts and souls and live according to the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:12– 21; Galatians 5:13–26).

3. What do you think it means to love your neighbor as you love yourself?

Students might answer with practical examples of being kind or generous to other people. Some may talk about being selfless, not getting into arguments, forgiving others, or putting others before themselves. Encourage them to put those ideas into practice. Scriptural support can be found in Matthew 5:38–42, Matthew 7:12, and Ephesians 4:32.

NOTE: Some students may say that they do not love themselves and have not felt loved by others, which makes it hard for them to put this passage into practice. In a case like that, consider sharing passages that assure them of God's love for them, such as John 3:16, 1 John 4:9–11, Romans 5:8, or Romans 8:37–39. 4. Write what happened in the story in your own words:

Jesus told a story of a man who was left to die on the side of the road after an altercation with robbers. A priest and a Levite (religious leaders) saw the man but passed by without stopping to help him. Finally, a Samaritan saw the man and stopped to help him. He cared for the man's injuries and paid for a room at the inn for him. The Samaritan showed him mercy; therefore, Jesus said that he was a neighbor to the man and the religious leaders were not. The student's answer should cover the basic outline of the story.

5. How is the Samaritan in the parable a good example of how to "love your neighbor as you love yourself"?

The Samaritan did not judge the man. The Samaritan simply saw him as a neighbor and showed him compassion and mercy. Then, he went a step further by bringing him to an inn to receive continued care. If a student had trouble articulating why this made the Samaritan a good example, point out that he treated the man the way he hoped someone would treat him if he were in a similar position instead of letting their differences define his actions.

Some students might write the excuses word for word from the passage. The first guest said, "I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it" (Luke 14:18). Another said, "I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out" (Luke 14:19). Another said, "I just got married, so I can't come" (Luke 14:20). Other students may simply summarize these points.

NOTE: In Jesus' parable, the excuses each person gave would have been very understandable to Jesus' original audience. The man who bought the oxen had made a huge purchase. Most people in Jesus' time were lucky to have one pair. His testing of the animals made sense. The same is true for the other excuses. Purchasing a field was even more important in Jesus' time than it is today. Fields were handed down in families and were hardly ever sold. Getting a new field was rare, and it would have been important to inspect the land. Finally, it was a Jewish tradition that people who had just gotten married would typically spend the entire month with their new spouse without any other responsibilities. Refusing an offer for another event would have been normal and expected.

7. While the guests were busy doing things they thought were important, what happened?

The original guests missed the opportunity to come to the feast. The master of the house, angry with their excuses, invited the poor, crippled, blind, and lame to his party instead. Then, finding there was still room at the table, he sent his servant to bring back anyone else who was willing to come.

NOTE: The parable mirrors the religious leaders' rejection of Jesus. They were so focused on trying to keep God's laws perfectly that they failed to recognize God's Kingdom as it began to appear on earth through Jesus' ministry. They failed to hear Jesus' Gospel message of forgiveness and hope. By turning away from Jesus, they were missing out on the "banquet."

8. Why was the father so excited to have his younger son home again?

The father believed his younger son to be lost or even dead, so he was overjoyed to see that his son was alive and well. His love for his son was so strong that he forgave everything the son had done.

My Notes

9. Why was the older brother so angry?

The older brother compared the gifts that he had received from his father to the gifts that his brother had received. He did not think that this treatment was fair because he had been faithful and obedient to his father all his life and had never received a party for his good actions. He also may have been jealous that his brother had taken a large part of his father's wealth and wasted it, yet he was now receiving even more.

NOTE: Students may identify more closely with the prodigal son, who made mistakes and knew he did not deserve grace or forgiveness. They may answer this question based on the way they have experienced others' anger toward them. However, the point of Jesus' parable is that both brothers benefited from their father's grace, love, and forgiveness—and that both of them needed it. The same is true for each of us. We all need God's grace, love, and forgiveness.

10. In your own words, write what the father said to the older son:

Luke 15:31-32 says, "My son . . . you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." If a student has written the verse word for word, prompt them with a question or comment to help them explore the meaning of the text more personally. 11. Why is it so hard for some people to admit they need God's forgiveness?

Students might bring up issues like pride, shame, or stubbornness. Some might share their own struggles with confessing that they have done wrong. Respect the student's response, being careful not to show any judgment. Consider sharing why it can be hard for you to admit you need God's forgiveness.

12. Why might it be difficult for some people to believe that God loves sinners and wants them to follow Him?

Students will answer based on personal experience. Many people struggle to believe this because they doubt that God could ever love or forgive them.

Use this as an opportunity to point students toward God's grace and mercy. Consider sharing Romans 3:22–26 or other verses that speak about God's gift of forgiveness.

13. Do you believe that God loves you? Why or why not?

Some students will be able to declare that God loves them and celebrate it with Scripture to back up their answer. Others will struggle to see how God could ever love them. In those cases, share John 3:16, 1 John 4:9–10, or Romans 5:8 and affirm that God's love is greater than we can imagine and that His grace is for everyone, including them.

LESSON 4: Jesus Saves the World

1. What story have you heard, read, or watched that had a completely different ending than you expected?

Answers will vary. Consider sharing your own answer to the question, either in the lesson or in your letter, as a way to connect with the student.

2. How did the crowd react as Jesus rode toward Jerusalem?

The crowd was overjoyed because they believed they were welcoming a new king who would free them from Rome. They praised God loudly, creating what would have looked like a victory parade for Jesus in front of the Roman rulers and the religious leaders (who were trying to keep the Roman rulers happy). The student's answer should reflect the fact that the crowd was happy, excited, or celebratory. If it does not, point the student to Luke 19:37–40.

NOTE: More details about Jesus' Triumphal Entry can be found in the other Gospels. The palm branches were a symbol of Jewish nationalism, the lowly donkey was a prophetic symbol, and the cry of the people, "Hosanna," means "save us." Jesus' simple prophetic entry clashed with the typical entry of Caesar, which involved war horses, spears, soldiers, and cries of respect for Rome. It pointed again to Jesus being a different kind of King.

3. What do you think it would have been like to see Jesus confront the religious leaders?

Since we have asked students to write a personal reflection, answers will vary. Consider sharing your own answer to this question.

4. What did Jesus say would happen to Him (see verses 14-23)?

Most students will note that Jesus said He was going to die and that one of His disciples would betray Him. Jesus also told His disciples that He would suffer to fulfill the new covenant through the breaking of His body and the spilling of His blood. He was telling them that He would keep God's promise from the Old Testament by dying to pay for all of humanity's sins. The disciples did not understand that at the time, and many students will not fully understand this either, but as they continue to study God's Word, they will begin to see the connections.

My Notes

5. What was the last thing Jesus said in His prayer?

Jesus prayed that God's will would be done instead of His own. If a student has simply written the verse word for word, consider asking them to think about the meaning of Jesus' prayer. Encourage them to think about why Jesus said those words or what He might have been feeling as He prayed.

6. What can we learn from the way Jesus prayed when He was struggling?

Jesus' prayer reminds us to go to God when we are struggling, to remember that we should seek God's will instead of our own, and to trust God for the answers to our problems. Jesus did all three of these things. Because He was fully human, He faced the human desire to avoid the pain He was about to endure. He asked God for what He wanted but maintained His desire to do God's will. And, in the end, He followed God's plan.

7. The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross for all of us to pay for our sins. What does that mean for you?

Some students will write that this means they have been washed clean or given a second chance. If a student shares a response like this, celebrate with them! If a student shares that they struggle to believe that their sins can be forgiven, share additional Scriptures to read that will encourage them, such as John 3:16–17. However, do not expect students to have a detailed understanding of atonement theology. If you're comfortable doing so, you might also encourage your student by sharing some of your own story and what Jesus' sacrifice means to you.

8. Why do you think Jesus' followers were still struggling to understand what happened to Him?

Jesus continually did unexpected things. His followers were still thinking in earthly terms and were confused when things did not turn out the way they expected. They did not understand that Jesus was ushering in a heavenly Kingdom, not a physical one. They did not realize that He was going to save them from their sins, not just from Roman rule, and that He had to die to accomplish God's plan. Most students will understand this and write something similar. Some may need help understanding the disciples' confusion.

9. What are some reasons that people today fail to understand who Jesus really is?

Students may give a variety of responses, including but not limited to the following: It is hard to believe without seeing. There are so many different perspectives about Jesus. It is easier to live in denial. Some people don't read the Bible. Some people would rather live for worldly pleasures. Consider sharing what you do to continue learning who Jesus truly is, and encourage your student to keep getting to know Jesus. You can share Scripture passages such as Proverbs 3:5–6 and John 1:1–14.

10. Based on everything you have read and learned in this course, who do you say Jesus is?

Answers will vary, but we pray students will say that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, their King, etc. If they do, celebrate with them and encourage them in their spiritual walk. If they do not, use questions and Bible verses to help guide the student toward a personal relationship with Christ (John 14:6; John 8:12; Acts 4:10–12; 2 Timothy 1:9–10). It is important that students understand that Jesus is more than just a great teacher or prophet. Jesus is God, and only He can offer the salvation that we all truly need.



cpministries.org