

# WHO IS JESUS?

**Goals:** The goal of this study is to help your Core group get to know each other and begin sharing their views on who Jesus is. This will open up our series on looking at Jesus' "I am" statements this quarter.

## 1) Openers:

- Have each Core member come up with something that is true about them, but not about anyone else in the group. What makes you unique?

(For some people, this will be more difficult, so don't just sit awkwardly and wait for them to come up with something. Make sure to have the group prompt them with questions until you find something that makes them unique!)

## 2) Scripture: Read Mark 8:27-29

## 3) Observations:

- What are the 2 questions Jesus asks? (Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am?)
- Why do you think He asks his disciples those questions?

## 4) Digging Deeper

- Get out a whiteboard or large piece of paper. At the top, write "Who Do People Say Jesus Is?"

1. As a group, make a list of things people say about Jesus (whether you agree with them or not). Be creative and be thorough! Here are some ideas to help people think outside the box: Jesus is...a good teacher, a chauvinist, a feminist, compassionate, judgmental, God, not God, powerful, weak, unique, not important, etc.

2. When you finish making the list, pick some of the ideas from the board, one at a time, and ask, "Where do you think people get this idea from?" (Parents, friends, media, Bible, etc)

- Ask the next question from the passage, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?"

1. Have people individually write down the things from the board that they think are true

2. Invite people to share a couple of the words they wrote down, and where they came from

3. Have everyone pick one of the things they did not write down (because they don't think it's true). Ask, "If that thing was true about Jesus, how would your life be different?"

4. Ask: "Why does it matter what we think about Jesus?"

For the rest of the quarter we'll look at how Jesus describes Himself through His "I am" statements in the book of John

# JOHN 6:24-35

## 1) Opener:

- What was your favorite food when you were younger?

## 2) Scripture:

**Background:** The Passover Feast is near and Jesus is traveling with his disciples. He has just miraculously fed 5,000 men—plus women and children (John 6:1-15). The crowd Jesus fed meets up with Jesus and his disciples in Capernaum.

*Read John 6:24-35*

## 3) Observations:

- What were the followers hoping to get from Jesus?
- What are the 2 types of food Jesus mentions?

## 4) Interpretations:

- Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the "Bread of Life?"
- What does it mean that those who come to Jesus shall not hunger or thirst?
- What would be an example of spiritual food that spoils?

## 5) Applications:

- What in your life are you "consuming" right now? (Social Media, entertainment, studies, books, friendships, etc). Do they bring life or decay?
- What might you need to let go of so you have more appetite for the bread of life?
- How would you live your life different if you viewed Jesus as the bread of life?

# JOHN 8:12-18

## 1) Opener:

- When you're in a dark place, how do you feel? Does it make you anxious, scared, excited, adventurous, etc? Why do you think darkness makes people feel afraid?

## 2) Scripture:

*Read John 8:12-18*

## 3) Observations:

- How does Jesus describe Himself?
- What promise does He give to those who follow Him? (8:12)

## 4) Interpretations:

- What does it mean to "walk in darkness?"
- Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the "Light of the World?"
- In what ways has Jesus been a light in your life?

## 5) Applications:

- How can you be a light in the darkness at Bellevue College?
- Read 1 John 2:9-11. What is the evidence of a life filled with light or darkness?
- How can we show love to each other as a core this fall?

# JOHN 10:1-10

## 1) Opener:

- If you had to spend 1 week as any animal, which would you choose?

## 2) Scripture:

**Background:** In chapter 9 Jesus had healed a blind man on the Sabbath. According to Jewish laws no one could work on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were using that to prove that Jesus was not from God and wasn't the Messiah. John 10 is part of Jesus' response to their accusation.

*Read John 10:1-10*

## 3) Observations:

- Who is the gate?
- Who are the sheep
- What happens to those who enter the gate?

## 4) Interpretations:

- What does it mean that Jesus is the gate?
- Why is it important for the sheep to recognize the gatekeeper's voice?
- Jesus says: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (v10) How would you explain what that looks like to someone who has never experienced Jesus before?

## 5) Applications:

- How can you learn to recognize Jesus' voice in your life?
- Jesus says that He calls His sheep by name. Write down the names of 2-3 people you know at Bellevue College whom you could reach out to. (Could be sharing your faith with them, invite them to core or a Chi Alpha event, etc).
- End by praying for those names

# JOHN 10:11-15

## 1) Opener:

- Think about someone who has helped guide you in your life. What did that person do or say that helped you when you needed it?

## 2) Scripture:

*Read John 10:11-15*

## 3) Observations:

- How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage? (Good shepherd, lays down His life, knows His sheep, knows His Father)
- Jesus contrasts the good shepherd and the hired hand in verses 11-13. What are the main differences? What does this tell you about who Jesus is?

## 4) Interpretations:

- Jesus twice mentions the idea of the good shepherd as one who "lays down his life for the sheep" (10:11 and 15). What do you think Jesus meant by this?
- How does it make you feel to read that Jesus knows you personally?

## 5) Applications:

- A shepherd guides his sheep, how does Jesus guide us?
- Are there any areas of your life right now where you need guidance from Jesus?
- Pray and ask Jesus to lead you in those areas and for you to trust Him in the process. [Facilitator: Make sure to write those things down and follow up in a 1:1!]

[Alternate ending: Read Psalm 23. How does this Psalm describe our Shepherd? Did any of the descriptions stand out to you as something you'd want to see in your own life? (For example: lacking nothing, green pastures, quiet waters, refreshed soul, etc...) Pray and ask God for those things.]

# JOHN 11:17-44

## 1) Opener:

- [Write your own opener question this week!]

## 2) Scripture:

**Background:** Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was sick. Jesus waited 2 days before going to visit them and heal Lazarus.

*Read John 11:17 - 44*

## 3) Observations:

- How did Jesus respond to seeing Lazarus' dead body? (v35)

## 4) Interpretations:

- What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
- Jesus said "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" what did He mean by this?
- Why do you think Jesus deliberately delayed going to Lazarus?
- Do you think Jesus was late?

## 5) Applications:

- Have you ever felt that God was delaying something that you really wanted?
- How can we respond when God doesn't do things in our timing?
- When you (or someone you know) is sick, how quickly do you turn to God for healing?
- Ask if anyone in the core needs healing and pray for them to be healed.

# JOHN 14:1-7

## 1) Opener:

- When was the most recent time you were lost? What happened?

## 2) Scripture:

*Read John 14:1-7*

## 3) Observations:

- How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage?

## 4) Interpretations:

- How would the promises given in verses 1-4 help bring comfort and peace to His disciples?
- Jesus describes Himself as the way, truth, and life. What is He the way to? Is He the only way?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the truth? Is that relative or absolute truth?

## 5) Applications:

- If someone asked you "How do you get to God?" How would you respond? [Note: "Jesus" isn't a complete sentence.]
- How does/should knowing that Jesus is the "way, truth, and life" affect how you live your life?

# JOHN 15:1-8

## 1) Opener:

- [Write your own question this week!]

## 2) Scripture:

*Read John 15:1-8*

## 3) Observations:

- How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage?
- What words are repeated in this passage?

## 4) Interpretations:

- What does it mean to abide/remain in Jesus?
- Why is it important to abide in Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized that He's not just *a* vine, but *the true* vine? Are there false vines that we connect ourselves to? What would be examples of them?

## 5) Applications:

- What makes it hard for you to abide with Jesus daily?
- What could it look like for you to abide with Jesus?
- As we're about to go into finals week then Christmas break, what is 1 practical step you want to take to abide with Jesus these next several weeks? (Could be: Read my Bible 4 times a week, pray for 20 minutes a day, go on a walk with Jesus once a week, etc). Give time for people to write down their answers and then share them as a group.

(Facilitator: write down what they said and follow up in a few weeks asking how it's going. Then talk about it in core in January)

[Alternate ending: "We began this quarter looking at Mark 8:27-29 where Jesus asks 'Who do you say I am?' Did your view of Jesus change over the course of this study? In what ways? How would you answer Jesus' question now? Who do you say Jesus is?"]