

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

September 11th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. What was your favorite school subject and why?
2. If you could spend a day with Jesus, what would you do? What questions would you ask?

Bible Study Questions

1. How would you answer the question to a non believer: Who is Jesus?
2. Why do you believe that it matters whether Jesus is fully God or fully human?
3. Why do you think that Jesus never overtly said that he was God? From what you know, what does the Bible say that convinces you that he is God?
4. Read Colossians 1:13-20. Make a list of all that it says about Jesus. What do those things all mean to you?
5. Through Jesus, God took an active role both in our redemption and by entering into our world to bridge the chasm between God and man. What difference does this truth make in your life? How does this impact your view of God?
6. Pastor Michael mentioned that as a human, Jesus experienced all of the same struggles and problems that we experience. What are some examples of some of the human struggles that Jesus experienced? For example, Luke 4:1-13, John 11:32-37). How does it help your faith knowing that Jesus has walked in your shoes?
7. If Jesus is the example of what true humanity should look like, then what in Jesus life should we highlight as an example to attain to?

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Doctrine: Jesus

One of the first conflicts in the early church was over the divinity of Jesus. At the Council of Nicea, church leaders reaffirmed the practice of the early church in worshipping Jesus as being fully God. Yet, people still debate Jesus' divinity today. Dorothy Sayers asks a probing question in her play *"The Emperor Constantine"* when she asks, "Do you know of whom you worship?" If we worship Jesus, then it matters about who we believe him to be.

I. Who is Jesus

- a. Fully Divine:** In the first three gospels, Jesus never declares that he is God. But he constantly does things that the Jews believed that only God could do. He forgives sins (Matthew 9:6), declares authority over the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8), or allows his disciples to worship him (Matthew 14:32). In John, we have Jesus making more provocative statements such as "I and the Father are one" (John 10:20). Following his ministry, the apostles would attest to the divinity of Jesus. (John 1:1, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3).
- b. Fully Human:** Jesus was also fully human. He grew up in a normal human way (Luke 2:52). He experienced hunger and thirst (Matthew 4:2). He wept with human emotion (John 11:35)

II. Why this matters

- a. God had an active part in our redemption:** If Jesus had been merely created, then it didn't cost God anything to redeem us. Yet, through Jesus, he paid for our redemption with his own divine blood and death. What more, it is because of his divinity that his death is able to satisfy all sin. His humanity meant that he could take our place as one of us.
- b. God took the initiative to come into our world:** God did not keep his distance from us, but entered into our world. He took the initiative to bridge the chasm between man and God so that we could commune with him.
- c. We worship a God who can relate to our struggles:** Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus has been tempted in the same way that we have. What more, Jesus experienced the same suffering and problems that we have. This means that we have a God who can relate to our struggles.
- d. Jesus can be the example for humanity to follow:** Through Jesus, God is able to show us what humanity was meant to

be. We can look to Jesus to learn about how we as humans should live.

Conclusion

One of the top songs in 1996 was the song "One of us" performed by Joan Osborn. In the song she asked these questions, "What is God was one of us, just a slob like one of us. Just stranger on the bus, trying to make his way him." In Jesus, God showed his love by entering into our world and becoming one of us. As for us, it should lead us to meditate and worship. Also it should prompt us to respond to his entering into our world by pursuing a life with him.