A FREE downloadable version of this study guide is available at rose-publishing.com. Click on “News & Info,” then on “Downloads.”

This study guide covers each chapter of this book and includes a reproducible worksheet and/or discussion questions for each chapter.

What participants will gain from this study:

- Understand basic beliefs about who Jesus is and the importance of his death and resurrection.
- Be encouraged to grow closer to Jesus through learning about his names, words, and deeds.
- Learn how to apply Jesus’ teachings in daily life.

Spend time in prayer before each study session and pray for each participant.
CHAPTER 1: WHO IS JESUS?

Main Idea
Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. He came to save the world and made that salvation possible through his death and resurrection.

Teaching Tips
Introduce participants to the purposes of the study. Ask them what they hope to gain from the study or why they have joined this study. Open this session by having participants brainstorm all the words they think of when they hear the name Jesus. Write all the words on a whiteboard or easel pad. Identify which themes you see emerging. Explain that as Christians we are to become like Jesus, so how we view him affects how we live our lives.

Digging Deeper
Check out the Apostle’s Creed, one of the earliest statements of faith Christian leaders used to clarify basic Christian beliefs—especially about Jesus. See www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html

Worksheet Key
(1) False (2) e (3) d (4) False (5) c

CHAPTER 2: JESUS: FACT & FICTION

Main Idea

Teaching Tips
You may not have enough time to cover all the controversial topics in this chapter, so encourage participants to pick a few topics that most interest them, and spend the majority of the class time focusing on those topics.

Digging Deeper
For a video segment to show during this session check out the DVD The Real Jesus: A Defense of the Historicity & Divinity of Christ (The Apologetics Group: 2008).
For more on specific topics mentioned in this chapter see Gospels: “Lost” & Found (Discusses the Gnostic gospels); Pop Spirituality & the Truth (Covers Eckhart Tolle, Deepak Chopra, The Secret); 50 Proofs for the New Testament (Archeological finds).
Available at www.rose-publishing.com

Worksheet Key
(1) d (2) False (3) d (4) False (5) a

CHAPTER 3: GOSPELS SIDE BY SIDE

Main Idea
The four Gospels have four human authors, but only one divine Author. Their four points of view arrive at one conclusion: Jesus is the Son of God.

Teaching Tips
Make a transparency or laminated page of the map “Israel During Jesus’ Time.” Using a wet-erase marker track Jesus’ travels to show how often Jesus traveled and in which areas he preached and performed miracles.

Digging Deeper

Worksheet Key
(1) c (2) d (3) True (4) False (5) three
CHAPTER 4: THE BEATITUDES

Main Idea
The Beatitudes are about life in the kingdom of God—a life that Jesus teaches is far better than the way of the world.

Teaching Tips
Discussion questions are located within the chapter pages. Because some of the questions are more personal than others, be sure to select questions appropriate for the level of sharing that participants are comfortable with.

Digging Deeper
Put the Beatitudes in context in the Sermon on the Mount. For an outline and explanation of the Sermon on the Mount, see Bible commentaries such as World Biblical Commentary: Matthew 1–13 by Donald A. Hagner (Thomas Nelson Publishers: 1993).

Worksheet Key
(1) b (2) False (3) b (4) True (5) c

CHAPTER 5: THE LORD’S PRAYER

Main Idea
God is our holy and loving Father who cares for our needs and the needs of others.

Teaching Tips
This is a chapter on prayer, so leave plenty of time for group prayer. Pray together by following the seven attributes of God in the seven parts of the Lord’s Prayer.
Sing or recite together the Lord’s Prayer to open and/or close the session.

Digging Deeper
For more on prayer see Alone with God by John MacArthur, Jr. (Cook Communications Ministries: 1995). The “How Can I Pray?” section in this chapter is an excerpt from Alone with God.

Worksheet Key
(1) False (2) d (3) False (4) e (5) e

CHAPTER 6: NAMES OF JESUS

Main Idea
The names of Jesus reveal who he is and how he relates to us.

Teaching Tips
Choose as many names of Jesus as time permits and use the names in prayer, emphasizing their meaning and relevance in our lives.
(For example, pray: “Lord Jesus, our Bread of Life, you sustain our lives by...”)

Digging Deeper
Compare and contrast the names of Jesus with the names of God and the Holy Spirit. For a listing, see Names of God and Names of the Holy Spirit pamphlets. Available at www.rose-publishing.com

Worksheet Key
(1) True (2) b (3) d (4) a (5) True
CHAPTER 7: CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Main Idea
Christ is the key to what God has been pointing to in all the history of God’s people.

Teaching Tips
Discussion questions are located within the chapter pages. Encourage participants to pick a few that are most persuasive to them. Choose a handful of prophecies and types to discuss more in depth. Bring commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and Bible handbooks to the session to help participants go in depth on a few of these prophecies and types.

Digging Deeper
To prepare for teaching this class read more about Messianic prophecies in The Messiah in the Old Testament by W.C. Kaiser, Jr., (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995).

Worksheet Key

CHAPTER 8: CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

Main Idea
Jesus Christ is the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. We remember this every time we partake of the Lord’s Supper.

Teaching Tips
Begin the session by reading the Passover in Exodus 12:1–14 and Jesus’ Last Supper in Matthew 26:17–30.

Digging Deeper
Do more than just teach about the Seder—experience a Christian Seder together. See Christ in the Passover pamphlet and/ or PowerPoint® presentation for a how-to guide in observing a Passover celebration for Christians. Available at www.rose-publishing.com.

Worksheet Key
(1) d (2) b (3) True (4) False (5) Redemption

FEEDBACK

To improve future studies, be sure to get feedback from the group about teaching style, meeting location, discussion time, material covered, length of study, and group size. Choose a method that best suits your group: Anonymous evaluation sheet, e-mail response or questionnaire, open discussion. See the questions at the end of this study guide.
WHO IS JESUS?

Worksheet

1. True or False? Jesus was human while on earth and became divine after his resurrection.

2. Which is part of Jesus’ message?
   a. Repentance
   b. Belief
   c. Himself
   d. (a) and (b)
   e. All of the above

3. Jesus referred to himself in the Gospels as:
   a. The gate
   b. The bread
   c. The book
   d. (a) and (b)
   e. All of the above

4. True or False? Jesus’ betrayal and execution came as a surprise to Jesus.

5. Which of the following is true of Jesus’ second coming?
   a. Jesus did not speak of it while on earth
   b. Only believers will see him when he returns
   c. Only believers will rule with him
   d. (b) and (c)

Discussion Questions

1. Books and movies portray Jesus as various types: Jesus the revolutionary, Jesus the martyr, Jesus the rabbi, Jesus meek and mild, Jesus the healer, etc. How do you view Jesus when you read his story in the Gospels?

2. When Jesus preached that the “kingdom of God is near” (Mark 1:15), what might his first-century Jewish audience have understood it to mean? What do you think people today understand it to mean?

3. What does it mean that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah? How do people nowadays understand these terms?

4. Look at the Beliefs about Jesus chart. Are some of the beliefs more difficult than others for you to accept? Which ones and why?

5. In what ways did Jesus’ resurrection change the lives of his disciples? How does it change the lives of believers today?
Worksheet

1. What are the “Gnostic Gospels”?
   a. Gospels based on the book of Matthew
   b. Writings that portray more accurately who Jesus was
   c. Writings that include eyewitness testimony about Jesus
   d. Writings produced in the second and third centuries AD

2. True or False? The first-century historian Josephus does not mention Jesus in his writings.

3. Of the following which is not true about the Buddhist manuscript claimed to be discovered in the 18th century.
   a. The manuscript was claimed to be discovered in a Buddhist monastery.
   b. Notovitch claimed the manuscript described how Jesus traveled around India.
   c. The manuscript that Notovitch claimed was discovered in India was actually discovered in Egypt.
   d. No manuscript has been produced to verify Notovich’s claims that it even exists.

4. True or False? All rabbis in Jesus’ time were required to be married.

5. Which is true about the “Jesus Family Tomb”?
   a. Joseph and Jesus were common names in the first century.
   b. Most biblical scholars accept the “Jesus family tomb” theory.
   c. It provides proof that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married.
   d. (a) and (b)

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear challenges to Jesus’ existence or the reliability of the Gospels, how do you usually respond?

2. Why do you think in recent years more and more people are eager to remake Jesus into a New Age practitioner or an Eastern guru?

3. Does it matter that the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life are reliable? Why or why not?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–18. Why is Jesus’ resurrection important for our salvation?

5. What is one topic in this chapter that you would like to learn more about?
GOSPELS SIDE BY SIDE

Worksheet

1. What is not true about the Gospel of Matthew?
   a. Written for a Jewish audience
   b. Presents Jesus as the Messiah King
   c. Symbolically represented as a bull
   d. Possibly written in the Jewish language of his day and translated into Greek

2. What is not true about the Gospel of John?
   a. Written for the whole world
   b. Presents Jesus as the Word of God
   c. Symbolically represented as an eagle
   d. Is one of the Synoptic Gospels

3. True or False? Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee.

4. True or False? Ancient biographers gave much emphasis to keeping the historical sequence accurate.

5. Jesus’ public ministry lasted approximately _______ years.

Discussion Questions

1. Of the four Gospels which do you read most often? Why do you think this is so?


3. How might different points of view from different writers about Jesus’ life be a good thing?

4. Name several expectations we have for biographies in the 21st century. Would the Gospels meet those expectations?

5. What are some reasons the Gospel writers may have had for centering so much of their attention on the last week of Jesus’ ministry?
THE BEATITUDES

Worksheet

1. The Latin word beatus, from where we get beatitude, means:
   a. Kingdom
   b. Happy
   c. Peace
   d. None of the above

2. True or False? By fulfilling the beatitude commandments a person will be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven.

3. To be “meek” in the Bible means to be:
   a. Passive
   b. Humble
   c. Shy
   d. Proud

4. True or False? Having a pure heart is not the result of personal effort and not something we work toward.

5. When God makes right (justifies) sinners, this means that they:
   a. Can only do what is right
   b. Are still “legally” guilty of their sin before God
   c. Have Christ’s righteousness applied to them
   d. Earned their righteousness through practicing the beatitude

(Discussion questions are located within the chapter.)
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Worksheet

1. True or False? Addressing God as “Father” in prayer was a common practice in Jesus’ day.

2. To “hallow” God’s name means to:
   a. Misuse God’s name
   b. Speak God’s name
   c. Clear God’s name as justified
   d. Honor God’s name as sacred

3. True or False? God’s kingdom will come in the future, but is not yet here and now.

4. The “debts” referred to in “forgive us our debts” are:
   a. Our sins
   b. Our spiritual debts
   c. Our neglect of doing good
   d. (a) and (b)
   e. All of the above

5. By asking God for “our daily bread” we are:
   a. Acknowledging that our life depends on his mercy
   b. Not taking God’s mercy for granted
   c. Asking for physical things we need
   d. (a) and (b)
   e. All of the above

Discussion Questions

1. When did you first hear the Lord’s Prayer? Did you grow up reciting it? Singing it? Is it new to you?

2. How does addressing God as “Father” in prayer change the way you see God, and the way you see yourself in relation to him?

3. The Lord’s Prayer shows us that we need to ask God for our daily bread. What are some “daily breads” in your life that you can ask God for on a day-to-day basis?

4. With so many good reasons to forgive, why do you think it is often difficult to forgive? How can you learn to forgive others more?

5. In Matthew 6:14–15 we learn that God will not forgive us if we refuse to forgive others. Is there someone you are holding resentment against?
NAMES OF JESUS

Worksheet

1. True or False? The word Christ is the Greek translation of Messiah which means “anointed one.”

2. Which name of Jesus focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of the sacrificial system and the sacrifice that pays for our sins?
   a. Shiloh
   b. Lamb of God
   c. Emmanuel
   d. All of the above

3. Which name of Jesus focuses on Jesus as the One we rely on?
   a. Bread of Life
   b. True Vine
   c. Chief Cornerstone
   d. All of the above

4. Jesus, the Greek word for Yeshua, means:
   a. Jehovah is salvation
   b. God with us
   c. Witness
   d. Messenger of the Covenant

5. True or False? Jesus is called Apostle in the New Testament?

Discussion Questions

1. There are many names of Jesus in the Bible. How do so many names help us to relate to Jesus better?

2. What are some similarities you notice between the names of God and the names of Jesus?

3. One of Jesus’ titles is Son of God and believers are called sons of God. How is our relationship to God similar to Jesus’ and in what ways is it different?

4. Which names of Jesus do you find easy to use when praying? Which ones are difficult for you to use?
CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Worksheet

Fill in the blanks using the names in the list below. Use each name only once.

Adam
Noah
Abraham
Melchizedek
Joseph
Moses
Joshua
Samuel
David
Elijah

1. As _________ was unjustly condemned, Christ was unjustly condemned.

2. As _________ blessed Abraham, Christ blesses Abraham’s spiritual children.

3. As _________’s ark provided refuge for all kinds of animals, Christ’s body (the church) provides salvation for all, both Jew and Gentile.

4. As _________ was given to Israel after a long silence from God, Christ was given after a long silence from God.

5. As _________ parted the Jordan River, Christ walked on water.

6. As _________’s shame required the death of an animal, Christ’s was slain to cover our shame.

7. As _________’s experiences are reflected in the Psalms, Christ’s experiences are the fulfillment of those psalms.

8. As _________’s son’s birth was to be a blessing to all nations, all nations are blessed through Christ.

9. As _________ traveled in the wilderness for 40 days and was cared for by an angel, Christ was in the wilderness for 40 days and angels took care of him.

10. As _________ prayed for Miriam to be healed of leprosy, Christ healed lepers.

(Discussion questions are located within the chapter.)
CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

Worksheet

1. Which is true about the Passover described in Exodus?
   a. It marks a new year
   b. No bones of the lamb were to be broken
   c. Only the males of the households participated in the meal
   d. (a) and (b)
   e. All of the above

2. The Afikomen is:
   a. The four cups
   b. Broken matzah
   c. Parsley or another bitter herb
   d. The Pesach

3. True or False? Haggadah means “the telling.”

4. True or False? Only Jesus drank from the fourth cup (the cup of praise).

5. Fill in the blank: The four cups are Sanctification, Plagues, ________________, and Praise.

Discussion Questions

1. Before reading this chapter, how familiar were you with Passover? Have you ever participated in a Seder? If so, what was your experience?

2. What is one thing you learned about Jesus’ Last Supper that you didn’t know before reading this chapter?

3. Read Romans 3:25–26 and 5:9. The Apostle Paul wrote this in the 1st century. How would you explain these ideas to people in the 21st century in a way they could understand?
FEEDBACK

1. What did you learn through this study that deepened your relationship with God and/or helped you understand biblical teachings better?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What was your favorite thing about this study, and why?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. How could the meeting location, setting, length, or time be improved?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Did you think the material covered was too difficult, too easy, or just right?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What would you like to see different about the group discussions?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

6. What would you like to see different about the worksheets?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

7. What topic would you like to learn more about?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
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