

Small Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

- When you hear the name “Jesus,” what images, ideas, or assumptions come to mind?
- How have those been shaped over time?

Part 1: The Big Question — Who Is Jesus?

Read: Matthew 16:13–17

- Why do you think Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was—and then who *they* said He was?
- Peter calls Jesus “the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” What do those titles mean to you?
- If someone asked you today, “Who is Jesus?” how would you answer?

Part 2: The Story of Humanity — From Delight to Brokenness

Read: Genesis 1:26–28 and Genesis 6:5–6

- What stands out to you about humanity’s original calling in Genesis 1?
- The sermon describes Eden as a place with no shame, blame, or performance. What does that stir in you?
- Genesis 6 describes deep brokenness. Where do you see that same brokenness in today’s world—or in your own life?
- How does understanding this “big story” shape your view of Jesus?

Part 3: God’s Rescue Plan

Read: Habakkuk 2:14

- What does this verse reveal about God’s ultimate vision for the world?
- Why do you think God chose to work through people (Abraham, Israel) instead of starting over?
- The Tabernacle and Temple were described as “mini-Eden.” What does that tell us about God’s desire for relationship with humanity?

Part 4: Jesus as the Fulfillment

Read:

- John 2:18–22
- Hebrews 4:14–16
- Matthew 27:50–51
- What does it mean that Jesus called Himself the “temple”?
- How does Jesus fulfill the roles of priest, sacrifice, and king?
- The curtain tearing symbolizes open access to God—how does that impact your understanding of your relationship with Him?
- Which image of Jesus from the sermon stood out most to you (gate, light, bread, High Priest, etc.) and why?

Part 5: Titles of Jesus

Read: Daniel 7:13–14

- What do these titles reveal about Jesus?
 - Messiah (Christ)
 - Son of Man

- Son of God
- Which of these resonates most with you right now—and why?
- How do these titles challenge or expand your view of Jesus?

Part 6: Personal Response

Read: Matthew 11:28

- Jesus says, “Come to me…” What do you think it means to truly come to Him?
- What burdens are you currently carrying that you need to bring to Jesus?
- The sermon asked: “*Do you believe?*”
 - How would you honestly answer that today?
 - What helps you trust Jesus more? What makes it difficult?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- If Jesus shows us what God is like—and what humans are meant to be like—what is one way you want to follow His example this week?
- Spend time praying for one another:
 - To know Jesus more clearly
 - To trust Him more deeply
 - To experience His rest and restoration

Books to Explore:

Christianity

Simply Christian by N.T. Wright. Surprised by Hope by N.T. Wright. Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton. The Story of Christianity by Justo L. Gonzalez. The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries by Rodney Stark.

Church

The New Testament and the People of God by N.T. Wright. Center Church by Timothy Keller. An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind by Erwin Raphael McManus. A Church Called TOV by Scott and Laura McKnight. The Unstuck Church by Tony Morgan. Deep and Wide by Andy Stanley. Theology for the Community of God by Stanley Grenz. The Emotionally Healthy Church by Peter Scazzero.

Bible

How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth – Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart. Scripture As Communication – Jeannine K. Brown. Scripture and the Authority of God – N.T. Wright. Surprised by Scripture – N. T. Wright. The Historical Reliability of the Gospels – Craig L. Blomberg. Jesus and the Gospels – Craig L. Blomberg. Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture for Today – Adam Hamilton. How the Bible Works – Pete Enns. Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading – Eugene Peterson. The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancey.

Jesus

The Jesus I Never knew - Philip Yancey. Simply Jesus - N.T. Wright. The Challenge of Jesus - N.T. Wright. How God Became King - N.T. Wright. Who is this Man - John Ortberg.