

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

“Who do you say I am?”

Jesus asked his disciples this question. During his own time, people had many opinions about who Jesus was. The same is true today. All of today’s great religions acknowledge Jesus as an important figure, but disagree about who he actually was.

Who is Jesus? What did he claim about himself? The next four studies will give you the chance to explore the answers for yourself.

The Son of Man

In the gospels, Jesus referred to himself as the ‘Son of Man’ about 80 times. It was his favorite way to describe who he was. What can we learn about Jesus based on this?

Read Isaiah 53.1-3.

- According to the prophet Isaiah, what impression did Jesus make on the people of his day? Based on these verses, do you think Jesus stood out in a crowd?

Read Mark 2.1-12.

- How did people react when Jesus forgave the man’s sins? (vv. 5-7)
- Why did the Son of Man heal the paralytic? (vv. 9-11)
- How did people respond when Jesus healed the man? (v. 12)
- Do you think people would have believed in Jesus if he had not performed miracles? Why or why not?

What can we learn about Jesus, the Son of Man, from the following verses?

Matthew 13.37 –

Mark 10.45 –

Matthew 17.12 –

Matthew 26.24 –

Matthew 26.2 –

Mark 9.31 –

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Jesus the Man

Read Hebrews 2.14-18.

- Why did Jesus become a man of flesh and blood? (vv. 14-15)
- In what ways is Jesus like you and me, his brothers? (v. 17)
- What does verse 18 tell you about Jesus the man?

Read Philippians 2.5-8.

- What form, or nature, did Jesus have before he became a man? (v. 6)
- What do these verses tell you about Jesus the man?

Take a look at John 13.15-17.

- Do you believe we can truly follow the example of Jesus? Why or why not?

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Jesus was a man. It can be easy to lose sight of this simple truth when hearing the many different opinions about him. Jesus' humanness can sometimes get buried under the centuries of theology and doctrine that emphasized his divinity.

During his earthly life, Jesus was so human that he had to prove his divine authority by working miracles. To the people of his day, he came across as human – not divine. He came as the Son of Man to serve, not as the Son of God to be worshiped.

- Who do you say Jesus is? On what do you base your opinion?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has been through all the struggles you yourself face? (Hebrews 4.15-16)
- In what ways are you seeking to follow the example of Jesus the man? (John 13.15-17)