

TAKEAWAY

SEARCHLIGHT

Frequently asked questions

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT JESUS?

Sunday 27th January 2020

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we looked at a big question - what's so special about Jesus?

DISCUSS

1. Where did you first hear about Jesus?
2. Do you have a favourite 'Jesus story' from the Gospels?
3. What do you appreciate most about Him?

READ

Look at some of the ways Jesus described Himself in John's Gospel:

John 11:25-26

John 14:6

John 8:12

John 6:35

DISCUSS

4. In Jesus' culture, statements like these were tantamount to claiming deity. But what do they mean? What is Jesus saying when He calls Himself the resurrection, the way, the truth, the life, bread etc.

It might be helpful to think about what these words normally mean and then consider what Jesus is getting at in how he identifies Himself e.g. what is bread normally and how is Jesus like it in some way?

READ

Matthew 8:1-4

EXPLAIN

In this particular story, Jesus breaks a big social taboo by touching a leper. According to the social norms of the time, this would have made Jesus 'unclean'. He is willing to 'get his hands dirty' in reaching out to this man with compassion – in other words, Jesus doesn't just perform miracles to show off and draw attention. He urges the ex-leper to go to the priest and follow the law because this was all

necessary for the man to re-enter society – Jesus is concerned for the whole person.

DISCUSS

5. Do you believe that Jesus truly did miracles such as this? Why do you believe what you believe?

6. Many people in our culture would say that it was impossible for Jesus to do the things the Bible says he did. How would you respond?

7. Do you have a favourite 'miracle' story of Jesus? What do you like about it?

READ

Micah 5:2

Daniel 9:25-26

Isaiah 53:3-6

EXPLAIN

Bethlehem Ephrathah is very specific as there were a number of small



towns called Bethlehem in Israel at that time. Jesus was born in Bethlehem Ephrathah.

And doing the maths means that Daniel's prediction effectively says that God's anointed one will die (in Jerusalem) in 33 AD. This is around the time we know Jesus was killed.

DISCUSS

8. Did you know about some of the 'Messianic prophecies' in the Old Testament? Do you know of any others?

9. How do they enrich our understanding of Jesus – and of God's plan?

PRAY

On Sunday, we also looked at how influential Jesus has been on world history, and noted that Jesus is also unique in the fact of His resurrection. When we combine Jesus' compelling teaching, ability to do miracles, fulfilment of prophecy, influence on history and resurrection,

we can see that He is indeed special – He is God come to earth! And yet He is also *for us*. Why not spend some time worshipping Jesus in prayer?

