# Who is Jesus?
## John 8:21-32

Young Adults Lunch following service

Recap John: in short, **Jesus is God**

This section is titled: The Purpose of This Book

**John 20:30-31 (NIV)**
"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John 1 - Declares Who Jesus is
**John 1:1-5 (NIV)**
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Jesus performs seven main signs in the book of John. We've seen five already:

1. Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine (ch.2)
2. Jesus healed a royal official's son (ch.4)
3. Jesus heals a disabled man at the pool in Bethesda (ch.5)
4. Jesus Fed the 5,000 (ch.6)
5. Jesus walked on water (ch.6)

Jesus didn't just perform these miracles and leave.
He also had a lot of conversations and a lot of moments for teaching.

Jesus always had a purpose behind every interaction.

Early on, we see Jesus cleanse the temple. He has conversations with a man named Nicodemus and a samaritan woman. After He fed the five thousand, he taught about being the Bread of Life and offered salvation to all who trust in him

Now, as Jesus continues his ministry, opposition begins to rise from the religious leaders.

In chapter 8, we get to this climax point with the religious leaders. Like I mentioned in the beginning, John tells us exactly why he wrote his Gospel. It's so that we would believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and have life in His name.

In this interaction with the religious leaders we will answer the question:
**Who is Jesus?**

**Preface - The Bible is God's love letter to us**
love is an action, not just a feeling, but it requires truth & having hard conversations

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)**
4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trust, always hopes, always perseveres."

**1 John 4:8 (NIV)**
"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

**Jesus loves them enough to tell them the truth about who He is, who they are, and what will happen if they reject Him**

Summarize 12-20
**John 8:12 (NIV)**
**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

The Pharisee immediately argue with Him, and they begin this back and forth conversation. Jesus teaches about where He comes from, what His destiny is and His relationship to the Father. As we move deeper into this text, we are going to see these themes develop more fully.

**John 8:21 (NIV)**
"Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

- **going away:** reference to chapter 7:33-34. Jesus talking about His death, resurrection and return to heaven
- **you will look for me:** they will still be looking for the Messiah once Jesus is gone. Their understanding of who He really is will come too late.
- **you will die in your sin:** rejection of Jesus.
- **Where I go, you cannot come:** because of their spiritual darkness and rejection, they cannot enter heaven, where Jesus is returning

**John 8:22 (NIV)**
"This made the Jews asking, "Will he kill himself?" is that why he says, "Where I go, you cannot come?"

- you would hope that this heaviness would weigh on their hearts, but they resort to mockery instead

- Jesus keeps talking to people who are insulting and rejecting Him because He loves them. How many of us would actually do that?

**John 8:23-24(NIV)**
"But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told that you would die in your sins, if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

- Jesus ignores their comments & continues to point out the distinction between them and him.
- they are "of this world". they belong to this fallen world - One that is at war with God
- He is "not of this world". He came into the world on a redemptive mission. He does not share in its fallen nature.
- "I am He" in the greek **"Ego eimi" = "I am" or "I exist"** We see similar language used throughout the book of Isaiah, specifically chapters 41-51.
- The book of Isaiah contains warnings and judgment for sin, but also offers salvation and restoration through God's promised Servant and King. In the later chapters, God repeatedly identifies Himself as the one true God and Savior. He was separating Himself from all the other false idols and promises to bring restoration

**Isaiah 43:10 NIV**
"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

**Isaiah 46:4 NIV**
"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

**Isaiah 48:12 NIV**
"Listen to me, Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last."

- When Jesus says, "I am He" - He is the only one through whom salvation is accomplished.

**John 8:25-26 (NIV)**
"Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. 26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

- their response is more sarcastic "who are you to be saying these things" they were rejecting His claim of being the Messiah
- Jesus has been saying the same thing from the beginning (i.e) "Bread of Life", "Living Water", "Light of the World" Jesus is the Son of God. He has been sent on a mission to bring a broken world back into fellowship with God the Father
- There's more Jesus could have said and pointed out about these leaders but, submitted to the Father and followed His authority

**John 8:27-29 (NIV)**
27 “They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 “So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29”The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone; for I always do what please him”

- the time will come when they know who Jesus is. He uses the same “i am he” statement
- Jesus was obedient to the Father. He stayed in His will. Not only has he been sent from the Father, but it is also true that the Father was with him.
- I think this is good encouragement for us when we walk out in faith and in our calling. God may call us to something, but sometimes we think He sits on the sidelines until we fail, finish or whatever the case may be. That’s not true. He’s walking with us the whole time. It might be uncomfortable, but it always comes back to love. He loves us so deeply that He wants to develop our character and become more like Him

**John 8:30 (NIV)**
"Even as he spoke, many believed in him.”

There is a shift in conversation. some were starting to understand that Jesus had been sent from God but, they weren’t quite sure how to respond to the hard truths.

**John 8:31-32 (NIV)**
31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**1. Know the Truth & Believe in Jesus**

- Truth is knowing Jesus for who He is
- Truth isn’t religion. It isn’t just an intellectual place we arrive at. It’s relationship

**2. Remain in His Word**

- “hold onto his teachings” can also mean to “remain” “continue” to “stand firm”
- live in the Word. Let what the Word says control you everyday actions. Then you will show that you are his disciples.
- Believing and Obeying go hand in hand
- Jesus was that example by being obedient to the Father’s will

**3. Walk in Freedom**

- Truth liberates us from the bondage of sin and sets us free to become the kind of people that God intended them to be.

**Romans 6:22 (NIV)**
“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”

- it doesn’t mean do whatever you want

**1 Peter 2:16 (NIV)**
"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves."
- Jesus doesn't free us to sin; He frees us from sin

Unfortunately, as we see and already know, the religious leaders rejected Jesus. They considered His claim to be the Son of God and the Messiah to be blasphemy.

At the beginning, I shared the purpose of the book of John.
He writes - "I wrote these things so that you may believe."

So what do you believe?

**Who is Jesus to you?**
- is he a good teacher? a prophet? Someone you go to when life gets hard?
- Or is He who He says He is - Son of God, The Savior, the great I AM

or maybe you know Jesus, but you've backslidden and haven't walked with Him for awhile now.

The first step to walking in freedom is believing in Jesus.

**Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)**
"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Salvation Call

Dear Heavenly Father,
I am a sinner in need of Savior. I believe that Jesus is God. I believe that He died for my sins and rose again. So I ask, come into my life, come into my heart, and help me walk in freedom. In Jesus name I pray, Amen