



## Family Conversation Guide

(March 21, 2021)

In this week's sermon, **Jesus gives an account of His divinity.** The religious leaders were angry that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath and was claiming to be the Son of God, so Jesus gave them a clear list of his Godly attributes.

David Chadwick points out **10 claims of divinity that Jesus made** in this section of scripture. As we read this passage, we must be confronted with the question that was raised 2,000 years ago: **"Who do you say that Jesus is?"**

### READ AND DISCUSS

Before listening to the sermon, ask family members to open their Bibles to **John 5**. It would be great to remind everyone that last week, David led us through verses 1-17, when Jesus healed a sick man by the pool at the Sheep Gate. As that section concluded, the religious leaders were plotting to pursue Jesus, ultimately to kill Him, since He healed on the Sabbath and was claiming to be the Son of God.

You may want to provide paper and pens/markers for your family members to take notes (or the younger children to draw). One tip we do in our family, we remind our younger children that we will discuss their notes after the sermon is concluded and during the week, which can give them a subtle encouragement to follow along.

1. Read **John 5:18-19**. Many will be initially confused how 'calling God his own Father' is 'making himself equal to God.' If a family member asks why this is true to begin your discussion, simply let them know that Jesus' words in this passage helps clarify this. As the list of Jesus' divine attributes is unveiled, we see that the Son is fully united with the

Father, so they are equal. The Son only does what he sees the Father doing. Ask each family member: **What are things that Jesus saw the Father doing throughout time?** (*loving, guiding, creating, being truthful, etc...*)

2. Read **verse 20**. Jesus states that the Father loves him, highlighting that their loving relationship is a part of the foundation for who they are and what they do. **What is the work that Jesus showed them, which He is saying there will be 'greater works' in the future?** (*answer is John 5:8-9*) **What are some of the future 'greater works' Jesus ended up showing the world?**
  
3. Read **verse 21**. Jesus is claiming to give life to whom he will and that all judgement is given to the Son. The Father and Son both raise people from the dead. **What are the ways that Jesus gives life? How has Jesus given life in your family?**
  
4. Read **verses 22-23**. Since the Father sent the son, shows the Son what he does, loves the Son, does miracles with the son, gives life alongside the Son, we are called to honor Jesus, just as we honor the Father. **What are good ways for people to honor Jesus?**
  
5. Read **verse 24**. This is the second time in this section of scripture (a third time is coming in the next verse), where Jesus says, "Truly, Truly." This is one way to say, "Listen up. I am about to tell you something very important!" Jesus uses this phrase, "Truly, Truly", forty times in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Jesus tells us to have eternal life, we must hear his word and believe God the Father. **What does it mean to hear Jesus' word? What does it mean to believe him (the Father)?**
  
6. This is a great time to remind each of your family members that 'eternal life' is not limited to heaven. 'Eternal Life' starts at the moment one begins a relationship with Jesus by faith. Although we remain in our current bodies in a broken world, we are indeed new creations, children of the Almighty, having unity and intimacy with God and walking in His power. Heaven will be an amazing culmination of a new life and new world, without a trace of sin, seeing each other and God Almighty face to face. **When you hear Jesus talk about 'eternal life', do you think about your present relationship with Him or heaven (or possibly both)?**

7. Read **John 5:25-26**. Jesus speaks life into the dead. **Can you think of ways that God brings life into things that are dead?**
8. The Father's life is in the Son and the Son gives life to us. **Share with your family your gratitude towards Jesus for giving you life.**
9. Read **John 5:27-29**. In **John 5:25**, Jesus refers to himself as the 'Son of God', but in **verse 27** He refers to himself as the 'Son of Man'. Both of these titles are true and accurate, so Jesus is now highlighting his humanity as the Son of Man. This is a clever way to remind everyone that although Jesus is fully God, he also was fully man, facing the same things we face. He was hurt, rejected, abused, and put to death in a horrific way. **What do you think about Jesus being a judge, knowing that he faced many of the same hardships you have? Do you feel like you are able to relate to Jesus better, knowing that he had so many struggles during his life?**
10. Jesus will be the one who separates and judges man, directing Christians to come to him into his heavenly kingdom or casting non-believers into separation from God and all of His goodness. Although our good works are signs of the belief in Jesus which is in our hearts, those works are not what saves us. We are saved through faith in Jesus, by His grace. **Please share if there are good works you believe God is calling you to do this week, out of your love and gratitude towards Jesus.**
11. This section of scripture demands a response from each of us on the question: **"Who is Jesus?"**. David Chadwick states that our only three logical conclusions to this question can be: Jesus was a liar -or- Jesus was a crazy man -or- Jesus is the Lord and must be the Lord of my life. **Discuss as a family why it doesn't make sense that Jesus was a liar or a crazy man, leading us to the truth that Jesus is Lord!**

### **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Most Christian either focus on Jesus being fully man -or- being fully God. The beauty of Jesus is that He is both!! **Spend some time listing out ways that the Bible tells us that Jesus was fully man** (in his life he was tired, hungry, beaten, rejected, cried, loved, etc...). Once you have a good list, **start a new list of how Jesus was fully God** (lots of things in John 5:18-29 can go on this list). Share your list as a launching point to

your prayer time, marveling at how amazing it is that we can know and worship a Lord who is both fully man and fully God.

## PRAYER

*Dear Daddy, We thank you that these passages help us understand Jesus better. Jesus is so powerful and perfect, yet He is also gracious and kind.*

*We thank you that we have a relationship with you because of what Jesus has done. We have a long list of gratitude for what you did to save us. We are also motivated by Jesus to do the good works you have for each of us and for our church family. Please give us the strength to serve in our church and serve in the world, knowing that what we are doing for others is a way to serve and love you. We are astounded by all of your goodness and brilliance. It is in the name of Jesus we bring this prayer, Amen.*

## FOR YOUNGER KIDS

- **Did you know that Jesus was a man, just like us?** (maybe reference someone in your family that is a 30 year old male)
- **Did you know that even though Jesus was a man, he was also God? Do you remember any of the ways that Jesus said he was like God the Father in this passage?**
- Because Jesus is God, we can trust him. Jesus wants each of us to honor him and believe in him as the one who saves us from our sin. When we believe in Jesus, we call him Lord, because he is in control of our lives. **Do you want Jesus to be the Lord of your life today and forever?**
- When Jesus is your Lord, you will want to help people as a way to follow Jesus, especially people who are in need. **Is there any way you think God wants you to help needy people this week?**

- **Is there any way we can help you and your family this week?** If so, please share your prayer requests with our church. We would be honored to pray with our children and adults.
- **ACTIVITY:** Jesus said that we can have eternal life with Him if we will believe in Him. That means we can be with Jesus forever, now and in heaven. What do you think heaven is like? Can you draw me a picture?