**10 Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask**

*Question 4: Everyone knows that Jesus was a good man and a wise teacher—but why try to make him into the Son of God too?*

Discuss the following question at your table: “What makes Jesus any different from any other religious teacher? Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Jesus, they’re really all the same.”

**Claim 1: The idea that Jesus was a unique divine person arose long after he walked the earth.**

1. In what ways would a discussion about New Testament manuscripts be useful for refuting this claim?
2. Look up some of the following passages.

Mt 7:21-22 Lk 10:1-2 Jn 9:38 Ro 9:5 Hb 1:10 2 Pt 3:18

Mk 5:19 Lk 22:70 Jn 20:28-31 Ga 4:4-6 1 Pt 1:1 Ju 1:4

Lk 2:11 Jn 1:1 Ac 20:28 Phil 3:20 1 Pt 3:15

Lk 9:20 Jn 4:42 Ro 10:9-13 Ti 2:13 2 Pt 1:1, 17

What are some of the titles given to Jesus by New Testament authors that make it clear Jesus is more than just a human?

1. Agree or Disagree? Pointing out to people what Jesus’ earliest followers believed is not especially helpful because skeptics can simply accuse those followers of being confused or delusional.

**Claim 2: Jesus never claimed to be anything more than a man.**

**Read Daniel 7:13-14**

1. If Jesus wasn’t just a human, why did he so often call himself “Son of Man”? (Jesus calls himself this name 82 times in the gospels, making it by far his most common title for himself.)
2. What were some implications of this title that Jesus would have wanted people to catch?

**Read Matthew 7:21-29, Mark 2:1-12, Mark 14:61-65,**

1. Discuss your group’s passages and answer this question: In what ways do these verses show that Jesus claimed to be more than a human?

**Read John 5:16-18, John 8:56-59, and John 10:30-33**

1. Explain the following statement: Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. But he could not have been merely a good moral teacher.

**Read Matthew 12:38-40 and John 2:18-22**

1. When Jesus was challenged to prove his divine authority, to what did he point?
2. Explain how the following facts support the reality of the resurrection:

* All four Gospels report that Jesus was buried in Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb.
* All four Gospels report that the first people to report Jesus’ resurrection were women.
* The Pharisees had Pilate seal Jesus’ tomb and post guards.
* The Pharisees were unable to produce Jesus’ body and paid off the tomb guards.
* Hundreds of people reported seeing Jesus alive after his crucifixion.
* Paul, the most vehement enemy of Jesus, converted and became a Christian missionary.
* Thousands of Christians chose to be executed rather than deny that Jesus rose.
* The Bible is God’s Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and without error.

1. Why is it so crucial for people to recognize that Jesus was not just a human teacher of morality?

*“My constant plea with people is to ‘let Jesus speak for himself’” (Mittelberg, p. 123)*