

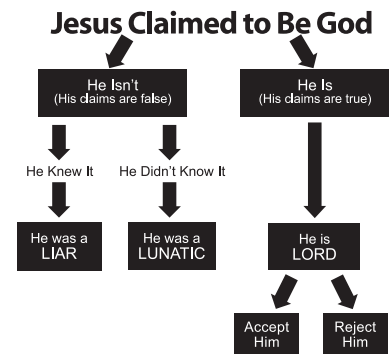
SESSION 6: Revealing the Truth about Jesus

Discovering that Jesus' Miracles and Resurrection Substantiate His Claim to be God

Reference: *Surprised by Faith*, pages 62-81 (fourth edition); pages 65-79 (third edition)

Making the Discovery

- Jesus is named “_____” in the New Testament. This is from the Greek word “Kurios” which means “supreme one” and is equivalent to God. What did Jesus do to convince people that indeed He was Lord?
 - Jesus demonstrated His authority to _____ and heal sickness (Luke 5:17-26). Removal of the man’s paralysis proved to the Jews’ understanding that Jesus had also removed the sin that caused it. Only God can forgive offenses against Himself.
 - Jesus demonstrated His authority over _____ (Luke 7:11-16). Jesus broke the power death had over humankind because of their sin. Only God could have the power to conquer death and give eternal life in its place.
 - Jesus demonstrated His authority over _____ (Luke 8:22-25). Scientists refer to the “laws” of nature, but Jesus had control over them because as God, He is the “law-maker.”
 - Jesus demonstrated His authority over _____ spirits (Luke 4:33-36). People asked, “What is this message?” This means, “What does this tell us about who He is?” Only God or the head of the demons could do this. Jesus told them how foolish it was to think His power was other than that of God (Matthew 12:24-29).
- The evidence of Jesus’ claims and miracles is the basis for a conclusion about His identity. A verdict is a conclusion based on legal evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt. What options do we have?
 - Jesus could be a _____. Jesus cannot be a great moral teacher and also the greatest liar who ever lived (based on the billions of people who allegedly would have been deceived). This option is false because His character supports a person of the highest virtue and integrity. Furthermore it is inconceivable that Jesus could sustain a committed following for several years without being detected if He were a fraud. Finally, His truthfulness is authenticated by His resurrection from the dead.
 - Jesus could be a _____. If Jesus really thought He was God, but wasn’t, He’d have to have been severely mentally deluded. This option is false because Jesus manifested no symptoms of psychiatric disorders. Rather, He demonstrated excellent mental health. This option also is false because He was authenticated by His resurrection from the dead.
 - Jesus could be _____. This option is most consistent with the evidence already considered. It is also true because there can be no greater credential to authenticate Jesus’ claim to be God than the objective evidence of His physical resurrection.
- Evidence for Jesus’ _____ from the grave is compelling.
 - The tomb of Jesus was empty on the third day after His death.
 - Jesus appeared physically to many people after His resurrection.
 - The lives of the disciples were transformed from fearful to bold, even to the point of being martyrs.



DISCOVERY #6

“Ah-ha!” The compelling evidence of Jesus’ miracles and resurrection from the dead confirmed His claim to be God!

Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, Jesus taught that we should recognize Him as the true Son of God because He did the works (miracles and teaching of truth) of His Father (John 10:37-38). The apostle John acknowledged that Jesus did many more miracles than are recorded in our Gospels. He also stated that the miracles should lead us to faith and eternal life in Him (John 20:30-31). In an incredible summary of Jesus’ identity, the writer of Hebrews identified Him as: the Son of God; God’s heir; Creator of the world; truly God just like His Father; sustainer of the creation; Redeemer of humanity; and ultimate judge with His Father (Hebrews 1:2-3). God spoke through the apostle John and said that He was dead and is alive again (Revelation 1:8, 17-18)! When did God die? This can only be explained if He is referring to Jesus’ death and resurrection. This proves that Jesus is God.

Answers to “Fill in the Blanks”: 1. Lord, forgive sin, death, nature, demonic; 2. liar, lunatic, Lord; 3. resurrection