

JESUS CHRIST

The question that Jesus asked of his disciples: "Who do the crowds say I am?"

Listen to the Bible story. Then, move into groups of 4 to discuss the questionnaire below.

PETER'S CONFESSION OF CHRIST

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

"They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" Luke 9:18-25

1. If the typical person in your school, workplace or neighborhood were asked the same question today that Jesus asked his disciples-"Who do you say I am?"-what would they say?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the founder of a religion | <input type="checkbox"/> the greatest man who ever lived | <input type="checkbox"/> a social revolutionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a spiritual philosopher and teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> a saint (more spiritual than real) | <input type="checkbox"/> an enigma (mystery) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Son of God | <input type="checkbox"/> a close friend | <input type="checkbox"/> a swear word |
| <input type="checkbox"/> my Lord and Savior | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

2. What is your answer to the question, "Who is Jesus Christ?" How has your answer changed over time?

3. Which of the following experiences has taught you the most about who you are?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> my marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> a divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> my first job |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a health crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> struggling with new ideas | <input type="checkbox"/> a financial crisis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the death of a loved one | <input type="checkbox"/> an emotional crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> living away from my parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |

4. When you compare your Christian life to what Jesus calls you to do-to deny yourself and take up your cross every day-how do you feel?

- like starting over
- like ducking
- like crawling under the rug
- like yawning
- like going for it

5. What would it mean for you to "deny" yourself?

- to stop focusing on my problems and think more about others
- to never do anything for myself
- to put Christ's desires above my own
- to trust God to take care of me so I can focus on him

6. If your faith in Christ meant you had to change your lifestyle completely, what would you do?

7. The central affirmation of the early church was "Jesus is Lord," while everyone else was saying "Caesar is Lord." What "gods" compete with your allegiance to Christ?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> power / influence | <input type="checkbox"/> wealth / possessions | <input type="checkbox"/> pleasure / having fun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> my spouse / boyfriend / girlfriend | <input type="checkbox"/> my friends | <input type="checkbox"/> my family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> my health / comfort | <input type="checkbox"/> my work / career / school | <input type="checkbox"/> my reputation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

8. What do you need to do to move closer to Christ in your spiritual life? learn more about Christ's teachings

- have more faith in Christ's death and resurrection
- "lose" my life and my self-focus for Christ's sake
- be more involved in church, youth group, etc.
- be more consistent in my devotional life

9. How can this group remember you in prayer this week?