

SESSION 17

21st CENTURY JESUS

God&Me&Us

Focus Point

Although Jesus lived 2000 years ago, He is alive today, and we can know Him personally.

The Key Truths

2000 years later, how can I personally know Jesus Christ?

Using scriptures that speak about knowing God, not just knowing about Him, this episode introduces the idea of a personal relationship with God. Like a relationship with a friend at school or church, this will mean spending time together, having two-way conversations together, and sharing our experiences of God with other people in our life.

Scriptures to Consider

- **Matthew 16:15 (NIV)** - Jesus' question: *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*
- **Matthew 16:16 (ESV)** - Peter's response: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*
- **John 14:6 (ESV)** - *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Group Discussion Questions

Question 1: *"...But who do you say that I am?"* (Matthew 16:15, NIV). Ask the preteens how they would answer this question.

Answer: Guide the preteens to express how God has revealed Himself to them in their own lives - through their experience, and in His Word.

Question 2: What do you think are some of the main things that Jesus said about Himself that causes people to hate and reject Him?

Answer:

- That He is the only way to the Father. *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6, NIV).
- That you need to die to yourself to follow Jesus. *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20, NIV).
- That we need to repent and change our hearts. Many people like the idea that God loves us, just as we are, but reject the idea that He expects us to repent and change.

Question 3: There are a lot of theories about who Jesus was. What have you heard people say?

The quote from C.S. Lewis said that Jesus was maybe just a nice teacher or even a mad man. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NLT) says *"There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity - the man Christ Jesus. He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone."*

Who does the Bible say He is and what did He come to do? What does this mean for us?

Answer: Jesus has made a way for us to be back in relationship with God, and is the "go-between" or mediator between us and God. For this reason we don't have to live in fear anymore and we can walk with Him, and follow Him, every day. We also have hope.

Question 3: How does it make you feel to know that there is overwhelming historical evidence of Jesus' life, death and resurrection?

Answer: Ask the preteens to share if what they've learnt during this episode has encouraged them? And if so, why?

Word of the Day

Christ

Verse of the Day

"There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity - the man Christ Jesus. He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone." - 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NLT).

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