

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30)

"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)

What Jesus said

Piecing it together

Who was Jesus? He claimed to be God, and so he was either:

- **A Liar** - Pretending to be someone he wasn't.
- **A Lunatic** – deluded and deceiving himself.
- **The Lord** – exactly who he claimed to be!



"When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Sherlock Holmes)

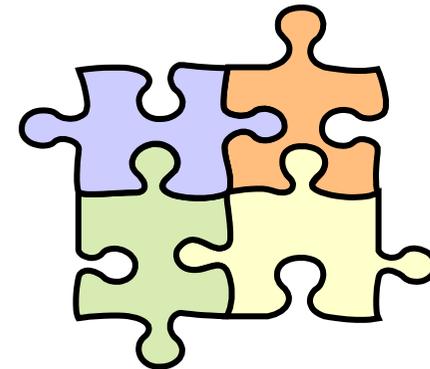
What did you think about Jesus before this study? In what way has your thinking changed or been challenged?

"Then comes the real shock. Among the Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if he was God, He claims to forgive sins, He says he always existed. He says he is coming to judge the world at the end of time ...and when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man has said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips."

(C S Lewis, Author and Oxford Scholar)

Discovering Christianity

A course designed to help people discover the basics of the Christian faith and put the pieces of their spiritual understanding together



Study 2: Who exactly is Jesus Christ? **Jesus – what the Bible teaches**

Based on Luke 4:14 – 13:21

Introduction

When we try to get a picture of who Jesus is, we have to start looking at the Bible's teaching. However for some people that is a problem because although they normally haven't read it much, they have picked up on some myths about the Bible.

Myth no 1: The Bible has changed through the centuries.

WRONG! *It's usefulness as a historical document is undeniable, as the following chart shows:*

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	No. of Available Copies
Herodotus	488-428 BC	900 AD	8
Julius Caesar (Gallic War)	58-50 BC	900 AD	10 approx
Livy's (Roman History)	59 BC	900 AD	20
New Testament	40-100 AD	130 AD 350 AD	24,000+ fragments full manuscripts

Myth no 2: There are many different interpretations of the Bible.

WRONG! *There are differences on minor doctrines but Bible-believing Christians are agreed on all the major truths about Jesus.*

Myth no 3: The Bible is full of errors.

WRONG! *There are a few apparent differences that can be explained intelligently. No significant fact or major teaching is affected by these.*

Myth no 4: Archaeology and science disproved the Bible?

WRONG! *Archaeological evidence over the past 100 years has confirmed the Bible's accuracy about things previously in doubt. The existence of the Hittite empire, Sodom and Gomorrah, King Belshazzar and the details of the book of Acts, to name but a few!*



Have you believed any of these myths in the past? Which of the above might cause you to rethink your ideas?

Look at Luke

Read Luke 4:14-21. What claim did Jesus make for Himself? (Look at verses 28-30 to see the people's reaction to his claim. Blasphemy was punishable by death.)



Read Luke 9:18-22. What did the disciples understand about Jesus before His death?

Look at what they said after His resurrection in John 20:26-28

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." (Heb 1:3)

Read Luke 11:14-15. What did other people say about Jesus? What do people say about Jesus today?

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col 1:15-17)