

Lesson 3

Who is Jesus Christ?

Family Study Guides • Making God Real Series

Lesson 2: Who is Jesus Christ?

Making God Real

The Making God Real series covers the doctrines of God and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God with the purpose of addressing the essential questions of life. These Family Study Guides are created to help parents review and better understand the basics of God's doctrines—then have family discussions on those topics. Use the portions of the guides that are the most helpful and meaningful to your family.

Objectives:

This study guide will help your family:

- Describe the relationship between Jesus Christ and God the Father.
- Explain who Jesus Christ is and what Jesus Christ does.
- Explain that Jesus Christ became a man and the reason He did so.
- Understand our personal relationship with Christ.

1. Who is Jesus Christ?

- Where did Jesus come from?

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Jesus Christ is the one in the God Family that was known as “the Word.” He and God (the Father) were both God and *have been around forever*.

- The Word was the Creator of all things.

John 1:2-3 Before anything began to be, the Word was there with God. God made everything by the Word. Nothing has been made without him. (Worldwide English)

- How did **the Word** become known as Jesus Christ the Son of God?

John 1:14 The Word *became a human being* and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the *only Son of the Father*. (CEV)

Galatians 4:4 But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother... (GNT)

Discuss: As a family, discuss the process of God becoming man, living His life, dying, and being resurrected as our Savior. (If needed, search for more information at www.ucg.org)

- What does the following scripture tell us about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ—and their relationship with us?

2 John 1:3 I pray that God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son will be kind and merciful to us! May they give us peace and truth and love. (CEV)

- God reveals himself to us as Father and Son.
- They love and care for us as “children of God.”

1 John 3:1 The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God. (NCV)

To help understand the relationship between God the Father and God the Son

Who was U.S. President Bush? It depends. There were two people named “President Bush.” One was the father and the other was the son.

In the Bible, when it talks about God, sometimes it is talking about the Father, sometimes about the Son—but they are both God.

2. More about Jesus Christ

- God the Father and God the Son are alike in form and character.

Ask: What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (*John 14:9*)

Hebrews 1:3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God... (NLT)

Ask: Has anyone said to you, “You’re just like your father” or “You look so much like your mother?” In what ways are you like your parents?

- In what ways can our relationship to Jesus Christ cause us to be like Him?

He is our older brother—and we need to look to Him, obey and follow God the way He did.

Mark 3:35 ...For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.

He is like a really good friend.

John 15:13-14 The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. (GNT)

As a family...

Discuss the following verses and what it means that Jesus Christ is our Savior

1 John 4:14 ...the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Discuss a time when someone in your family saved a bird, cat, dog, etc. from death or harm.

This small example can help illustrate what Jesus has done for us in helping us to be able to live forever.

3. What is Jesus doing now?

Carefully study *Ephesians 1:17-21*. Look for answers to these questions:

- Where is Jesus now? (v20)
- Who has authority over all powers now, and in the world tomorrow? (v21-22)
- Who is the head of the Church of God? (v22-23)

Discuss what it means that Christ is “the head of the church.” While we have ministers and other leaders in the Church of God, it is Jesus Christ that we follow.

- Why is all of this so important to us? What is God’s purpose for us? (v17-19)

- What does it mean for Christ to be our Intercessor?

Romans 8:34 It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

1 John 2:1 My children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not do wrong things. But if anyone does something wrong, we have a Friend to help us. He speaks to God for us. He is Jesus Christ who does what is right. (Worldwide English)

- Jesus is also known as our “High Priest.” Why is that so important to us every day?

Hebrews 4:14 Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God — Jesus, the Son of God. *15* Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. *16* Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it. (GNT)

As a family...

After your review of this study guide, discuss some of the ways that the Father and Jesus the Son love and care for you and want you to be a part of their Family.

God and Jesus Christ do not just want us to know who They are—but for us to have a personal relationship with Them.

In the next Family Guide we will further discuss God's plan for you.

Additional resources for your family studies

- **Booklet:** *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God*—“God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit” pp. 2-4, 14-15

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/fundamental-beliefs-of-the-united-church-of-god-0>

- **Booklet:** *Who Is God?*— “Who Was Jesus?”

While Jesus was human in the fullest sense, He was also more than simply human—for He was, in fact, the divine Son of God with all that name implies. Indeed, as we have seen, He was the Creator God made flesh. And when His human life was over, He returned to the divine glory He shared with the Father from eternity past.

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/who-is-god/who-was-jesus>

- **UCG Study Guides:** *Getting to Really Know God.*

<http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/God-revealed-old-testament-was-the-one-who-became-Jesus-Christ.htm>

- **Booklet:** *Who Is God?*— “Understanding God Through Christ”

The Bible is full of often-overlooked keys that can resolve many of our misunderstandings about God and His Word. In reading the Scriptures, one may vaguely sense these things but somehow never clearly see them because of misleading misconceptions about Scripture.

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/who-is-god/understanding-god-through-christ>

Questions from UCG Fundamental Beliefs

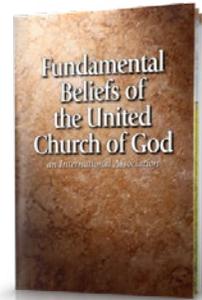
These questions are intended to check the parent and older teens' understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question. Select that best answer.

1. Jesus Christ...

- a. overcame and prevailed against all temptation to sin because of His superior human willpower.
- b. overcame and prevailed against sin because He was not really tempted by it.
- c. was tempted in all points as we are, yet lived a sinless life.
- d. came to the earth to die for sin, which was unanticipated by God.
- e. would have been our Savior, even if He had succumbed to sin only a few times during His life in the flesh.

2. In the plan of God, it was determined that Jesus Christ would die...

- a. once Adam sinned.
- b. once Lucifer sinned.
- c. from the foundation of the world.
- d. once Israel rejected God as its King.
- e. once Cain slew Abel.



3. Jesus Christ's life...

- a. is of greater value than the sum total of all human life.
- b. was sacrificed in love to pay for the sins of all mankind.
- c. makes possible our release from the death penalty we earned by our sins.
- d. all of the above.
- e. almost ended on the cross, but He was taken down from the cross once the Roman soldiers thought (mistakenly) that He was dead.

4. Human beings are saved by...

- a. the life of the resurrected Christ, as our interceding, empowering High Priest.
- b. the death of Christ.
- c. keeping God's law to the best of our ability.
- d. being predestined to be saved.
- e. works of the law.

5. The fundamental reason that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was made was...

- a. the requirements of the law.
- b. the sins of mankind.
- c. God's love.
- d. "a" and "b."
- e. the sins of Satan.

Instructor's Notes and Resources

1. If viewing this PDF online, click the link below for an online Jeopardy game. You can use the basics of the lesson to set up a game for your students. Change times or allow adjustments for age or ability levels. For young children, include adult helpers that can discuss and encourage the correct answers: <https://bit.ly/2Fkxm9u>

2. As an alternative, consider using one of the teen studies, “Jesus—Man or God?”, or “What is a Disciple of Jesus Christ?”, from the Teen Bible Study Guides page of the UCG Members Family Education webpage.

- Jesus: Man Or God?

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/teen-bible-study-guides/jesus-man-or-god>

- What is a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/teen-bible-study-guides/what-is-a-disciple-of-jesus-christ>

- Teen Bible Study Guides

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/teen-bible-study-guides>

Instructors: The form on the next page (page 7) can be made into a pre- or post- lesson assessment handout or used as discussion questions.

Individual Activity

Name: _____

1. Describe the relationship between Christ and God the Father. What is Christ's role and where do we come in?

2. As you learn more about the relationship between Christ and God the Father and Christ's example for us, how can you apply it to your family and peer relationships?

Group/Class Activities

• **Group:** As a group, define a list of characteristics that are needed to be part of a team (i.e. loyal, good worker, get along with others, etc.). Choose one to work on illustrating.

• **Class:** Divide the class into trios and have a different person in each trio read *Proverbs 17:17*, *Proverbs 18:24*, and *John 15:13-15*.

After they have read all three scriptures, have each group discuss these points:

1. What kinds of qualities will true friends show?
2. What is the best thing you can do for your friends?
3. Would you really die for a friend? When and why?