

Deal With It

Pastor Tommy Creutz | John 5:18-47

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Ice Breaker

What was your favorite part of your week?

Understanding the Text in Context

Read the text together. Jesus describes His equality with God — His divinity — in multiple ways: in who He is, in His relationship with the Father, in what He does, and through multiple “witnesses” verifying Jesus’ claim. What specific descriptions does Jesus use? What are some direct implications of Jesus’ words?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

The implications of Jesus’ words show that there’s great danger in rejecting Jesus outright. And also in *reducing* Him. What version of Jesus are the people around you most tempted to create: A comfortable Jesus, productive Jesus, affirming Jesus, non-disruptive Jesus, something else? How does the Gospel confront those versions?

The passage says eternal life begins through hearing and believing, not through working and performing (v. 24 and v. 40). In what ways do you still live as though eternal life depends on your effort, image, or spiritual success rather than Christ’s finished work?

Living Out the Truth

Which of the descriptions of Jesus are most encouraging to you?

Which description of Jesus could help you as you talk with those who do not believe Jesus is God?

How is it possible to know the Scriptures but to miss Jesus (v. 39-40)? Does this mean we have to choose: either the Bible or Jesus? Why or why not? What would be an indication in people's words and deeds that they *really* know Jesus and are not just following a superficial, religious facade? What role does Bible reading have?

Are you using Jesus to build up your reputation, or is He Lord of your life? Are there any areas of your life not yet submitted to Jesus' authority?

While we are made in God's image, God is wonderfully *not* like us in important ways. We should never make God in our image, reducing Him. God has "life in Himself" (v. 26), which applies to both the Father and the Son. God is not dependent on anyone or anything else. How does God's independence ("aseity" to use the theological term) give us comfort since we are dependent on Him?

Pray for one another, anticipating the resurrection.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Ask your kids what they have heard people say about Jesus. Maybe people say he was a good guy or a good teacher, but we know Jesus is God. Look together for some Scriptures showing the divinity of Christ in this text and in others (examples: John 1:1,14; John 8:58; John 10:30; Revelation 1:8).

Thank the Lord for who He is.

Further Study

In this passage, Jesus discusses all people's future resurrection from the dead, the soul permanently rejoining the human body. Read [10 Things You Should Know about the Resurrection](#) and [The Resurrection of Our Bodies](#).

See the Word through Jesus' eyes: Jesus' view of the Bible: [What Did Jesus Believe About the Bible?](#) and [What Did Jesus Teach about the Bible?](#) and [The Witness of Moses and the Scriptures](#).

Read J. I. Packer's [Concise Theology](#), Chapter 10: "Self-Existence: God Has Always Been" and learn more about the term "aseity" in these articles: The [Aseity of God](#) and [God's Aseity and Independence](#).

How can Jesus be equal with God? Learn more about The Trinity! (Esp. if you missed some of these from the first Growth Guide in John).

- Read some good articles: "[Why the Doctrine of the Trinity Is Crucial for the Christian Life](#)," "[10 Things You Should Know about the Trinity](#)," and "[When Troubles Come, Meditate on the Trinity](#)."
- Read a little longer (and even deeper) article from John Piper as he learns from Jonathan Edwards and C. S. Lewis — all to know God better through His Word: "[Can We Explain the Trinity? My Favorite Image for the Greatest Mystery](#)."
- Study this helpful infographic from Visual Theology about [The Trinity](#).

Looking ahead to next week's Sermon and Text: Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 6:1-21: "Why Are You Following Jesus?" and "The Key To See a Miracle" and "Born Again."