

THE TRUE PROPHET

+ **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

Jesus fulfills the office of prophet, declaring words of eternal life to the world.

+ **BACKGROUND PASSAGES:**

Deuteronomy 18; Mark 1; John 6; 14

+ **SETTING:**

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He immediately turned heads. He taught with authority in a way that completely stunned and amazed the people who heard Him. No one had ever seen or heard anyone teach the way Jesus taught. But Jesus wasn't accepted by everyone. In fact, though many people immediately desired to follow Jesus, they lacked staying power because the teachings of Jesus were very difficult for them to understand and accept. Jesus, the true Prophet, not only declared the way to the Father, but when He did, He revealed Himself as the only way.

DAY 1

READ:

Mark 1:21-28

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Mark 1:21-22

NOTES

The acronym GOAT, greatest of all time, is a term used to describe people who are the best of the best in their field. Typically when we hear the term, we hear it in reference to sports. Because of the biases that people carry into those conversations, there is generally no consensus on who actually is the greatest of all time. In the NFL people argue over Tom Brady or Deion Sanders. In golf it's Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus. In the NBA it's Michael Jordan versus LeBron James. In tennis it's Serena Williams versus Steffi Graf. Every athlete that enters the discussion in their respective sport typically did something to change the game, whether that was the amount of titles they won or their athletic dominance on the field of play.

When Jesus came on the scene and began His earthly ministry, He immediately established Himself as the undisputed greatest of all time. He did so by teaching with an authority that no one before ever had and no one after Him ever will. But it wasn't just His teaching that cemented Him as the GOAT, it was also His miracles. Through His teaching and miracles, Jesus proved His authority and trustworthiness in all things.

What are some things believers can do to live in submission to the authority of Jesus over their lives?

DAY 2

READ:

Deuteronomy 18:9-22

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 18:18-20

NOTES

When most people have the opportunity to meet someone whom they look up to—like a movie star, professional athlete, or politician—the excitement they feel makes them nervous and they can't figure out the words to say. The reason for this is because they admire the person's ability in whatever arena they're in. And because of their ability and fame, the distance between them and the people they admire feels great. But for so many people, when they meet someone famous that they admire, especially if they actually get the chance to have a conversation with them, they realize that the person they admire is just a normal person with extraordinary ability in their line of work. Closing the gap of distance between ourselves and the people we admire can be a pretty cool and encouraging experience.

In the person and work of Jesus Christ, God closed the gap between us and Himself. Jesus, the true Prophet, came in flesh and dwelt among us and spoke the very words of God, so much so that to obey or disobey His words is to obey or disobey God. Sin placed a wedge between us and God, and God the Son Himself came to us in order to close that gap. And what we find as we pursue a relationship with God is that He becomes more and more amazing to us every day.

How does Jesus closing the gap between you and God the Father impact the way you pursue Him in your daily life?

DAY 3

READ:

John 6:22-71

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 6:66-69

NOTES

The gospel is an offensive message because it says that we can't be good enough to get ourselves to God. The gospel of Jesus tells us that we have to rely on Jesus in order to be saved. Some people can't find it within themselves to believe that "good" people deserve separation from God in a place called hell just as much as "bad" people. The reality is we're all bad. In fact, apart from Jesus, the Bible tells us that we are all dead in our sin (Ephesians 2:1-3). It doesn't matter how nice we are, how well we speak, or how many good things we do, we're all dead apart from Jesus. The difference between one dead person and another dead person might be the state of their decay or how dead they look, but they are both still dead.

Even though the gospel is offensive, it's the best news anyone could ever hear and receive. The fact of the matter is that we can't be good enough to save ourselves, but Jesus was good enough and thus is able to save us. Jesus came and lived a sinless life and died a sinner's death in our place in order to save us from the penalty of sin. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has given us the ability to live the way God made us to live: in relationship with Him.

How does the reality that Jesus had to die to give you life make you appreciate the life He's given you?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"There are two bidders for your soul. It is for you to decide which shall have it. Satan offers you what he cannot give; he is a liar, and has been from the foundation of the world. I pity the man who is living on the devil's promises. . . . But the Lord Jesus Christ is able to give all He offers, and He offers eternal life to every lost soul."¹

—Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899)

DAY 4

READ:

John 14:1-7

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 14:6-7

NOTES

One of the beautiful things about trusting in the work of Jesus for our salvation is that His work didn't end when He ascended into heaven. In fact, Jesus is still working in the world today through all His people to build His kingdom. Even more than that, when Jesus ascended into heaven, He went away to prepare a place for us in the Father's house. He also promised to come back and bring us to the place He is preparing.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life that gets us into an eternity with God. One day, we will get to experience a face-to-face relationship with God unencumbered by the presence of sin. But we don't have to wait until eternity to experience a relationship with Jesus. We get to do that now through studying the Word of God and through prayer. Jesus came to earth to end the separation that existed between us and God. That separation ended the moment we surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives. Our pursuit of our relationship with God now, as we seek to build His kingdom, prepares us for the relationship we will experience after we die in His presence.

How can you cultivate today your relationship with God for eternity?

DAY 5

READ:

John 14:1-11

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 14:1-7

NOTES

In Scripture, we see story after story of God doing amazing things in the lives of His people. In the life of Jesus, He taught with authority and performed miracles in amazing fashion, like bringing the dead back to life. We also have the stories of God's work in the lives of the people around us. And yet, when we find ourselves in a situation that shows that we clearly need Jesus's intervention, we find it hard to believe that He is going to provide what we need.

The greatest example of Jesus's providing what we needed was His death on the cross for our sin. Jesus did that because it was the only way for us to be restored to a relationship with God. We could never provide salvation for ourselves. We needed Jesus's intervention, and He provided. If Jesus was willing to take on the form of humankind and suffer and die to provide for our greatest need, then we can trust Him to provide for our daily needs. Jesus's authority and willingness to provide salvation gives us the hope that we need to face any challenge we might encounter today.

What are some things that Jesus has done to help you believe that He will remain faithful to you?



KEY DOCTRINE #52: CHRIST AS PROPHET

As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1:1).

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"A Word sent down from God in heaven, A Word from Christ to mortals given, A Word of truth, a Word of love, What matchless mercies doth it prove: God's Holy Word. A Word inerrant always true Through all the ages ever new; Though heaven and earth shall pass away, This Word abideth on for aye: God's Living Word."²

—R. E. Neighbour (1872–1945)

POINT 1: Jesus, the Word, possesses unique authority (Mark 1:21-22; Deuteronomy 18:18-20).

Jesus taught with authority in the past and He continues to teach with authority today through His Word. The sixty-six books of the Bible, coupled with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, tell us all we need to know about Jesus for salvation.

? From Day 1: **What are some things believers can do to live in submission to the authority of Jesus over their lives?**

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? **How does Jesus's being the final Word of God shape our understanding of people who claim to have new revelation?**

POINT 2: Jesus, the Word, provides eternal life (John 6:66-69).

True faith accepts and receives Jesus's sacrifice as the only way to salvation as we give Him our all.

? **What's the difference between a true disciple and one that just follows for a time but one day will turn away?**

Believing and accepting Jesus as God and Savior will give us eternal life.

? **What's so amazing about eternal life?**

POINT 3: Jesus, the Word, reveals the Father (John 14:6-7).

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only path to God the Father.

? **If Jesus is the only way, what are some of the important distinctions between Christianity and other religions?**

Within the Trinity, Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit are three in one. If we know Jesus, we know the Father and the Spirit.

? **How does knowing Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit are one encourage you?**

MY RESPONSE

Because Jesus came to us sharing words of eternal life found in Him, we share the good news of Jesus with all those around us, always open to follow God's leading to go anywhere to proclaim the gospel.

- **HEAD:** How does Jesus's death and resurrection demonstrate God's love for humanity?
- **HEART:** How can you praise God for the steadfast truthfulness of His Word?
- **HANDS:** How will you take Jesus's words of life to those around you?



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"It is not only impossible but useless to know God without Jesus Christ."³

—Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)