

The Life of Christ – Learning to Follow

Introduction:

The purpose of this study is to expand our knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ with the goal of learning how to become true disciples or followers.

In the study, we will examine His life and works over approximately 50 lessons. This is not intended to be an exhaustive study of Jesus. That knowledge will have to wait until we meet Him in glory. Nevertheless, the study will help us to understand more fully who He is, why He came, and how He can dramatically change our lives.

The study will focus mostly on the Four Gospels. However, we will also cross-reference other passages of the Bible and quote various authors to supplement our learning.

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Lesson 1 Introduction to the Life of Christ

Background:

Did Jesus exist before He was born in Bethlehem? Was Jesus an angel? How did Luke research the information for his gospel? All of these are important questions. It is important that we understand that Jesus was not just another human being. He is unlike any other.

In this lesson we will discover that Jesus existed before He was born in Bethlehem, and that He is the Creator God who deserves our worship.

Quote:

“The immensity of Christ towers over Western Civilization.” Calvin Miller

Questions

1. How do you think that Christ “towers over” civilization? Is the West civilized?

2. How important is Jesus to you as we begin this study? Highlight the answer that is closest to what you believe.
 - I know almost nothing about Jesus. I would like to learn a little.
 - I believe Jesus was an important person in Western history. I am interested in learning more so that I can understand the West.
 - I think Jesus was a great teacher. I would like to learn what He said and did so that I might become a better person.
 - Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. I wish to become a more committed follower of Jesus.

Memorize and Meditate:

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16 NIV

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How did Paul describe Jesus to the church in Colossae? Does this change what you have previously thought about Jesus? How?

The Bible Passages:

Passage 1 [John 1:1-5](#)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.

Questions

1. Who is the Word? How long has He existed? Is He your creator? What does it mean that life was in him? How important is it that He shines in the darkness?

2. If the Word is Jesus, then John teaches that Jesus is God. How is that possible? What does it mean for you?

3. Highlight which statement you believe is true for you personally:
 - I believe that Jesus has brought life and light to me.
 - I don't understand how Jesus can bring life and light.
4. How has Jesus brought you life and light? What difference has He made in your life? What difference do you still hope He will make?

Passage 2 [Hebrews 1:1-6](#)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at

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the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Questions

5. Describe what you learned about Jesus in this passage.

Jesus is:

Jesus has:

6. Mark the following statements T or F

- Jesus created the universe
- Jesus is an angel
- Jesus lived before He was born
- God calls all angels His sons
- Jesus is worshiped by the angels
- Jesus is greater than the angels

If Jesus is greater than the angels and worshiped by them, what should our response be to Jesus?

7. According to this passage, are we living in the

- Past days
- Present days

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- Last days
- Future days

What do you think the writer means by this? Are we also living in the last days? [See I Timothy 3:1-5](#) Does this passage describe the kind of world that we are living in now?

Passage 3 [Luke 1:1-4 \(NIV\)](#)

"1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

8. Describe why Luke wrote this gospel. To whom was Luke writing? How did Luke get his information for this gospel? Why is this information important for us?
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9. Share one thing that you have learned about Jesus today. How could this make you a better follower of Jesus?

Suggested Prayer:

Father in Heaven. Help us to understand how Jesus could exist eternally before he became human and entered our world. Teach us to worship and love Jesus as He deserves.