

PRAXiS

Who is
Jesus?

PRAXiS

HOW TO USE

This discussion guide is designed for you, leaders, to guide your group through this Praxis video series. This series is structured as a conversation based around engaging questions intended to promote thought-provoking discussion throughout each episode. When these questions pop up on the screen, hit pause and turn the question to the group. **Each episode includes the following:**

BIG IDEA

We highlight the big idea behind the episode, emphasizing key scriptures or quotes, to give you and your group an idea of what will be covered in the video. Feel free to share this before pressing play, or after to summarize what was taught into a concise thought.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

If the video question does not invite participation, use these questions to promote further interest. These questions are simply reworded to present the idea in a different way. We invite you to be creative and present the questions in a way that engages your group.

DISCUSS

The video questions are created to encourage conversation and to allow the formation of thoughts and ideas – inviting participants to wrestle with and begin sharing their beliefs and experiences. This is just the beginning. The discussion questions exist to go deeper and to invite more intimate and transformational conversation.

CONTEXT

IN A CHURCH OR LARGE GROUP SETTING

This guide is designed to be used by a leader, so begin by identifying those leaders and getting a guide into each of their hands. If you are watching the episodes with more than 20 people, we would advise identifying multiple leaders and having them focus on a section of the group. When the video questions arise, have them turn to their “small group” and discuss the questions openly. Time dependent, ask each smaller group to share with the larger group what was shared. This invites more people to share without the intimidation of a large group setting. Whether you keep these groups consistent from week to week, or you mix it up, remaining the same for the discussion portion of each episode will allow for greater depth and increased transparency.

IN A SMALL GROUP SETTING

Every leader in the room should have one of these guides prior to beginning the video. It can be helpful to identify one leader as the facilitator, and others as helpers. The facilitator can guide the video question time, with helpers stepping in as needed based on the direction of conversation. Come discussion time, gathering into small groups where one or two leaders oversee a small group can invite quieter participants to engage and allow for greater depth of conversation.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

While this discussion guide is designed with group participation in mind, the content is something we believe is valuable for every individual. We advise watching these episodes with a pen in hand and paper before you. Have your Bible handy and get ready to pause the video. You get to take this at your pace! When Scripture is referenced, open your Bible and read along – when questions are asked, hit pause and write out your answer. If questions arise in your mind that you are unable to answer, write them down to ask later.

GET READY

Take a breath, the pressure is off. We are not asking you to teach, or to have the answer to every question. Your role is to guide, facilitate, but most importantly to **listen** and **invite**.

Invite questions. Invite conversation.

This discussion guide was created to provide direction for the conversation, but not to limit or harness the group. During the video, listen to what the participants say. Do not feel the need to answer the question yourself. Be comfortable with silence. Give it fifteen seconds before you use a supporting question. Let them think.

“When will I know when to press play again?” Trust me, you’ll know. Conversation will end, or you may even have to re-focus the group if they go down a rabbit trail. If a valuable question or topic is sparked during the video, write it down and say you will return as a group to it during the discussion time.

When it comes time for discussion, follow the pace of the group. Let them naturally guide the conversation around what content stuck out from the video, or what questions were sparked for them. You are not confined to the questions in this guide. Pick the ones that stand out to you or add your own. This time will look different for each group and that’s intentional.

Listen and Invite.

WHO IS JESUS

FIVE EPISODES | PRAXIS SERIES 7

BIG IDEA

Who is Jesus?

It's a question that has been asked and considered, debated over and denied for the last 2000 years. This man who entered history, and seemingly stirred up a revolution that would impact and affect the world as we know it.

In this interactive five-part series, we unpack this question through the lens of the Christian And Missionary Alliance Fourfold Gospel: Exploring the person of Jesus, our Savior, Our Sanctifier, Our Healer, and Our Coming King.

Whether you know the story, or have never heard it before, join us as we explore the person of Jesus, who He was, and what it was He came here to accomplish on earth.

WHO IS JESUS?

EPISODE 1 | THE PERSON OF JESUS

BIG IDEA

Do we love Jesus for who He is, or what we can get out of Him?

Our relationship with, and love for, Jesus, has to be about who He is, not what we get from Him. It is about the person of Jesus.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Colossians 2:6-10: So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Psalms 73:25-26: Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Practical things that we can do that can allow us to shift our perspective and our focus away from what Jesus can do for us, and back on to the person of Jesus Himself:

1. **Spend time with Jesus**
2. **Express Thankfulness**
3. **Grow in your prayer life**

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: “Jesus longs for us to see our relationship with Him as a real and authentic relationship, where it is not about the things He gives or does. He is the king of the universe. He desires you, values you, and wants to get to know you.”

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What are some selfish reasons people enter relationships?**
 - What selfish motives have led you to be-friend someone?
 - Have you ever been more interested in what you get out of a relationship, than the relationship itself? Why?
- **How does your relationship with Jesus impact your relationships with people?**
 - What relevance does how we treat Jesus have on how we interact with our peers?
 - Describe ways that your relationship with Jesus reflects on those you encounter each day?
- **How can you be more thankful to Jesus for who He is?**
 - Is there a time in your life when you know Jesus did something for you, that you could have shown more thankfulness than these lepers did? Share.
 - How can we focus on Jesus, being thankful for who He is, over being thankful for what He does? What is the difference?
- **Is your relationship with Jesus about Him, or about what He does for you? Do you desire a change?**
 - How have you, up until this point, treated your relationship with Jesus?
 - If someone were to ask you “Why do you follow Jesus?” – what would you say? Is your answer more about what He does, or who He is?

DISCUSS

- **What are some of the things Jesus does, and gives us, that we cling to more than Jesus Himself?**
- **How can we love Jesus more for who He is? What does this look like lived out?**
- **Think of something Jesus has given you, or done for you, what does that show you about His character and who He is?**

NEXT STEPS

What is one thing you are going to do this week to spend time with Jesus?
Why is this important?

WHO IS JESUS?

EPISODE 2 | JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

BIG IDEA

What does it mean for Jesus to be our Savior, and what do we need saving from anyway?

Jesus is the only one who can save us from the consequence of sin. It is our choice to accept His free gift of salvation.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

John 14:6: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:14: And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:21: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might be made right with God.

Ephesians 2:8: For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is a free gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 10:9: If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Substitutionary Atonement: being made “at one” with God, by Jesus substituting himself in our place, taking the penalty we deserved.

Justification: “just as if I had never sinned.” A legal term, a transfer of Guilt. Set free of the penalty held over us.

Imputed Righteousness: God takes the perfect righteousness of Jesus, and places it upon us. When God now looks at us, He doesn't see our brokenness, instead He sees the perfect righteousness of His Son. (Philippians 3:8-9)

“Because of the fact that every man's salvation is hinged upon his own choice and free will. It is an awful thing to have the power to take salvation and to throw it away. And yet it is left to our choice. We are not forced to take it. We must voluntarily choose it or reject it.” – **A.B. Simpson**

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **Have you ever been in trouble and got let off the hook?**
 - Have you ever been released of consequences for your actions? How did it feel?
 - Is your instinct to “repay” someone when they’ve let you off the hook or covered your mistake? How does this come into play in your relationship with Jesus?
- **In what ways do you see how you, the people around you, and our society is in need of being saved?**
 - What evidence is there that the world needs a savior?
 - How does the necessity for a savior impact you?
 - What sin struggle in your life leads you to believe you need a savior?
- **What is our role in salvation?**
 - How would you define salvation?
 - What is God’s role in salvation?
- **Why did God give us free will to choose salvation?**
 - God could have easily saved us all, so why give anyone the choice?
 - Why do you believe God gave us free will at all?

DISCUSS

- **What is sin and how does it affect our relationship with God?**
- **What response would you give to someone who asked, “what do I need saving from anyway?”**
- **What keeps people from receiving the gift of salvation?**
- **Do you struggle with the fact you cannot earn your salvation? Why or why not?**
- **What is the relationship between faith and works? (see *James 2:26*)**

NEXT STEPS

Is there any unaddressed sin in your life you need to seek forgiveness for from your Saviour, Jesus?

WHO IS JESUS?

EPISODE 3 | JESUS IS OUR SANCTIFIER

BIG IDEA

Why is Jesus not content just leaving us the way we are now? How does He invite us to continue becoming more and more like Him, and what does this look like?

Jesus is our Sanctifier. We are made Holy, growing in the likeness of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit. This is both a moment, and a process that is lifelong. We do so, out of love for Jesus and our desire to live for Him.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Salvation	Sanctification
Once for all time	Continues through life
Entirely God's work	We cooperate
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

Sanctification: is the life long process of being made holy and growing in likeness to Christ. It is a progressive work which continues through our lives in which we cooperate with God in the process that makes us freer from sin and more like Christ in our lives.

Sanctification has a distinctive beginning at regeneration, that should result in a clear break from the desire to sin. (Titus 3:5, 1 John 3:9, 1 Corinthians 6:11)

Sanctification increases through life. (Romans 6:19, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:13-14)

Sanctification is completed at death (for our souls) and when Jesus returns (for our bodies). (Hebrews 12:23, Revelation 21:27)

Philippians 1:6: And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 3:12-13: I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **How is our expectation of spiritual growth different than other growth?**
 - What is your expectation of spiritual growth? How is it different than your expectation of physical growth?
 - Why are we more comfortable with discussing our physical, emotional, and mental growth than we are our spiritual growth?
- **Is the concept of Sanctification new, or familiar to you? What do you think about it?**
 - If this is your first time hearing the term Sanctification, what do you think?
 - If you are familiar with Sanctification, what questions do you hope are answered in this video?
- **Why is it important that we grow more like Christ?** How would you define salvation?
 - What motivates us to reflect Christ more? Why do we do it?
 - Why is God not content leaving us as we are? Unchanged?

DISCUSS

- **How would you define sanctification?**
 - **What is God's role, and our role, in sanctification?**
 - **Reflect on your life – charting out your “highs and lows” – how have you grown to be more like Christ?**
 - **How can we pursue spiritual growth and sanctification?**
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NEXT STEPS

Reflect on Philippians 1:6. Are you comfortable with growth being a lifelong process? How does it make you feel that we will never be complete until Jesus returns? What is Christ working on in your right now?

WHO IS JESUS?

EPISODE 4 | JESUS IS OUR HEALER

BIG IDEA

We see evidence of Jesus miraculous works in the Bible, but does Jesus still heal today?

Jesus is our Healer, and He is healing people today. Healing is made available to us because of Jesus death on the cross. Sickness came with sin, so healing comes in the atonement.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

John 20:21: Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Isaiah 53:5: But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

Matthew 8:17: This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, “He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.”

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Healing in the Atonement: This means the work that Jesus on the cross to make us at one with God, not only addressed our spiritual brokenness, but our physical brokenness as well. Jesus is enough to make us right physically.

Cessationism: The belief that the spiritual gifts and powers the apostles had access to ceased to exist after the apostles died. That these gifts were only reserved to the apostles to establish the church and then God stopped working in this way.

Jesus sentness, is our sentness. We have the same authority that Jesus did on earth.

How it all works:

James 5:14-16 “Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

- 1. Pray with confidence** – *it is not a matter of if, but when and how.*
- 2. Pray with others**
- 3. Pray in the Name of the Lord** – *submitting to the Father’s will.*

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **Have you ever seen or experienced a healing? What was it like, what happened?**
 - Have you ever heard of a healing happening? Whether someone told you, or you saw a video? What did you think?
 - What do you think of the concept of healing? How does it make you feel? Does it seem weird, scary, exciting, etc.?
- **Do we expect to see and experience healing today, the way Jesus said we would?**
 - Do you believe that Jesus can do today, what He did then? Why or what not?
 - Do you think we should live in expectancy that God will heal? Why or why not?
- **What does it mean for you to have the same power and authority as the apostles?**
 - Have you ever considered the fact that the same power and authority the apostles had, is available to you? How does this make you feel?
 - Why does it matter that Jesus “sentness” is our “sentness”?

DISCUSS

- What are other ways that we can be healed, beyond just physical?
 - What role does, or can, the medical system (medication, treatment, surgery) play in God's healing?
 - Have you every prayed for someone to be healed, or been prayed for? What happened? If the person wasn't healed, how did you make sense of that?
 - What could prevent people from asking for prayer of healing when they are in need?
 - What would you say to someone who would say "God doesn't heal today?"
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NEXT STEPS

Spend a portion of time praying for healing. Ask if anyone from the group would like prayer for healing and pray over them. Some helpful guidelines are:

- Ask if you can lay hands on them
- Pray with confidence - *remember it is not a matter of if, but when and how.*
- Pray in the Name of the Lord – "In the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit we ask that you heal..."

Afterwards, ask how they are feeling. Do not be discouraged is there is no change. Remind them that healing does not always happen in our way and timing. Check in the following day and continue to pray for them.

WHO IS JESUS?

EPISODE 5 | JESUS IS OUR COMING KING

BIG IDEA

Jesus left the world just as miraculously as He arrived, and then said He was coming back. But what is it He is coming back to? And what is our part to play in the world that He turned over to us in the meantime?

Jesus is our Coming King. The Kingdom of God is a now, not yet, reality - one that is available to us now - but is also yet to come when Jesus returns. His return is imminent and is motivation for holy living and sacrificial service: Our role, is ushering in the Kingdom by being prepared and being missional.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-11: So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” He replied, “the Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

Matthew 24:42-45: “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

Luke 17:21: “You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Matthew 24:14: “And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

2 Peter 3:9: The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What value is there in preparation?**
 - What type of things for you prepare for? Why?
 - Share a time you were not prepared for something, what happened?
 - Have you ever been prepared for something and it worked for your good? Share.
- **Why do you think God has not revealed the time of Christ’s return to us?**
 - Why do you think we don’t get to know when Christ will return?
 - Do you care about when He will return? Why or why not?
- **What is one practical way you can live missionally, therefore ushering in the Kingdom?**
 - How are we to be part of bringing God’s Kingdom on earth?
 - Why is it important that we live missionally?

DISCUSS

- **How would you define the Kingdom of God?**
 - **What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Coming King?**
 - **What does it mean that the Kingdom of God is a now, not yet reality?**
 - **How would you define repentance? Why is repentance an important part of preparation?**
 - **What does 2 Peter 3:9 tell us about the character of God? What about our role in ushering in God’s Kingdom?**
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NEXT STEPS

What can you do to better acknowledge Christ as your coming King?