

# Reflecting on Jesus

## Opening Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits  
and blessings which you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me

Merciful friend, brother and redeemer  
may I know You more clearly, love You more dearly,  
and follow You more nearly, day by day.

Sir Richard of Chichester

## INTRODUCTION

The reading from Scripture that sets the tone for this session is taken from Matthew 16:13-20, the story of Jesus asking His followers, particularly Peter, “Who do you say that I am?”

Find this passage in your Bible and read it aloud.

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Jesus made several more statements about Himself that began with the words “*I AM...*” in the New Testament. Please look up the following verses in the Gospels and write the words that Jesus used to describe Himself.

John 6:35 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 8:12 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:9 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:11 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 11:25 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:1 – “I am \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the “I am...” statements above tells you the most about Jesus?  
Which one(s) has been true for you? Why?

## What if Jesus had never been born?

Your life would definitely be different if Jesus had not been born 2000 years ago!

Read the following statements. Then go back and choose 3 or 4 that you think would make the biggest changes in your life, if Jesus hadn't been born.

Discuss with your Faith Partner why these 3 or 4 would make the most difference to you.

- My life would be emptier
- I would not have a friend to turn to in time of need
- My life would be about the same as it is now
- I would not have a source of strength and guidance
- I wouldn't have to go to mass on Sundays
- I would be missing out on the most important part of my life
- I wouldn't be as close to God as I am now
- I would miss Christmas
- My life would have less direction
- I'd be free to do whatever I want, instead of what Jesus teaches me to do

## The Jesus I know...

Of course we have not *seen* Jesus. Still, we can find out a lot about His personality, His values and His life by reading the Gospels of the New Testament.

Ask yourself the following questions. Share your responses with your faith partner.

1. *My favorite Gospel story about Jesus is... (feel welcome to use the Bible)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. *This story is my favorite because...* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *A story from one of the four Gospels that points out a characteristic of Jesus' personality that I admire...*

Story \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristic \_\_\_\_\_

Why I chose this characteristic \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Other characteristics about Jesus that I admire are and would like to model are;*

\_\_\_\_\_

## IF JESUS LIVED IN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

Pretend that Jesus is presently living in Minnesota.  
Based on what you know about Him..

1. Where do you think He would live?
2. What style of clothes would He wear?
3. What do you think He would do on a Friday night?
4. What kind of music would Jesus like?
5. Who would be His friends?
6. Would most of *your* friends like Jesus?
7. Do you think that you would like Jesus? Why or why not?
8. Do you think Jesus would be condemned or accepted today?



**AS WE READ THE GOSPELS WE LEARN THAT** Jesus has very high expectations for those of us who wish to be his followers.

- a. Choose 3 of the following passages from the Gospels and together read about some of these expectations.
- b. After you read each passage, ask yourself and discuss with your partner:  
*How easy or difficult is it for me to follow-through on the expectations?*



Matthew 5: 12 -14

Matthew 5: 13-16

Luke 6: 27-34

Luke 6: 36-38

Mark 10: 17-25

John 13: 33-35



## ACTION

With the help of your Faith Partner, decide on a way *you* can specifically work to carry out one of the expectations of Jesus that you just read and discussed. Write down what you plan to DO as a follower of Jesus to try to fulfill one of Jesus expectations.

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## REFLECTION

When Peter named who Jesus truly was in that passage from Matthew that you read earlier, Jesus then gave Peter a tremendous responsibility by making Peter the leader for His Church. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we too have a tremendous responsibility in carrying out our beliefs about Jesus through the lifestyle we choose to live.

Our picture of who Jesus is will always be enhanced if we pay attention to the way Jesus is portrayed through the stories of the Gospel writers. We need to spend time reading Scripture, if we are to get to know Jesus better as we grow spiritually.

When we spend time reading Scripture, we may have questions about how we are called to live our lives. Take the time to look at Jesus' responses to people in the Gospels. He is asking each of us to pay special attention to the ways He showed His love and care for others through His words and actions. Jesus is inviting us to do the same in our lives.

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DECIDE ON THE NEXT TIME YOU WILL MEET

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Jesus desires to be part of every moment of our lives. Strive to include Him in the biggest and the smallest events of your day. May He be a continuous source of Love and hope to you.*

### **JESUS IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

I see You, Jesus  
no longer just in prayer,  
no longer just in my Bible,  
but in the breaking of the bread  
of my everyday life

I see You, Jesus  
when You help me get done  
what's got to get done;  
my homework, my finals,  
my everyday living

Where do I see You?

More and more in the people around me;  
my friends, the people at the dinner table,  
my Mom and Dad, my sister and brother,  
the guy on the bus home.

You have become flesh in them;  
You are not just the Spirit in the Sky any longer,  
but You are right here for me to love.

How right it is to know that I can love them,  
and in loving them love You.

I feel so much more a part of them, a part of You,  
and that's all I ever really wanted anyway.

Thanks for entering everyday life.

I'm glad I don't have to go to the desert to find You  
all I have to do is listen right here and now  
and I'll find You coming through,  
gently, subtly, touching my heart  
with Your love and wisdom.

I'm happy You love me just the way I am,  
helping me develop all the potential that's in me,  
all the potential that's in the world.

Amen

*Dan McGraw*

