



THE NAVIGATORS SINGAPORE

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST

BY WONG KIM TOK

BOOK 1

GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

Book 1 Knowing Jesus Christ

Growing in Discipleship Bible Study Series



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INTRODUCTION

The Bible is God's inspired Word for people to learn about Him, His ways and how we can know Him and relate to Him. Christians need to feed on the Word of God in order to grow in their faith and relationship to God. Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Apostle Peter echoes this call when he urged his readers to be "like newborn babies, (who) crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it they may grow up in their salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). The pure spiritual milk is the Bible.

This series focuses on the foundational truths about God and the principles that will help every serious follower of Jesus to know Him, grow in spiritual depth and to make Him known. As you progress in this series, you will discover about growth principles, discipleship, and helping others to know Jesus and to grow in Him.

The best way to benefit from these Bible studies is to study the chapters regularly. Many have found completing a chapter a week manageable. You will benefit more by personally answering the questions before meeting with your Bible study leader for discussion and clarification. He or she will treasure your discoveries. If time is an issue, do a section (sub-topic) of the chapter each time and discuss your discoveries subsequently.

It is important at the onset to know that knowing truths is only half the story. The other important principle is to relate the truths to your personal life. This is usually addressed at the end of each chapter. Head knowledge does not lead to life change.

As you do the studies, you are also learning how to do systematic Bible study. The content will also gradually increase in depth as you continue the process. As you grow and mature, our eventual desire is that you would be ready to do independent Bible study. Subsequent materials will help you reach this goal.

Have a great learning journey!

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C H A P T E R

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**JESUS IS FULLY
HUMAN**

GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

CHAPTER 1

JESUS IS FULLY HUMAN

The Bible records the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ. The original eye-witness accounts of his life are recorded in four 'gospels' (literally 'good news') which came to be included in the canon of the New Testament. He was no disembodied spirit nor angelic being. His purpose was to be the redeemer of all mankind. (This will be explored further in the chapter following). The fact of his humanity bridges the gulf between God and man. Let us explore more of who this person Jesus was like. A sample answer is given for Question 1.

1 His Birth

1.1 In Matthew 1:18, What do we know about Jesus' family?

Sample answer:

Jesus' earthly parents were called Joseph and Mary. Mary became pregnant through the agency of God the Holy Spirit before they were married.

1.2 In Luke's tracing of Jesus' genealogy, he goes beyond the Hebrew identity of Abraham to that of Adam (and then God) Luke 3:38. What does that tell us about Jesus' nature?

1.3 What do the following passages reveal about Jesus' background?

His place of birth Matthew 2:1

His hometown Matthew 2:21-23

2 His Virgin Birth

2.1 What was unique about Jesus' conception and birth?

Matthew 1:20

Luke 1:27

Luke 1:35

The circumstances of Jesus's conception were obviously miraculous; he was conceived in Mary's womb without the aid of a father's genetic material. But the nature that was created by God in the womb of the Virgin was undeniably human; he shares in Mary's humanity and is, in this way, truly the offspring of Abraham and David—indeed, the offspring of the first woman, Eve, the mother of all the living.

Luke Stamps, 'The Humanity of Christ', The Gospel Coalition

3 His Growing Years

3.1 In Luke 2:52, Jesus grew in four major areas of life.

What might these important areas be? Complete the words.

Quadrant 1:

The right way to live

W

Quadrant 2:

Physical growth

S

F

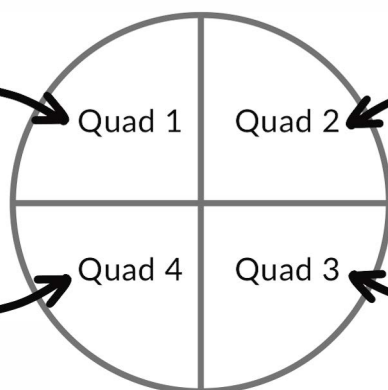
Quadrant 4:

Good social relationships

F

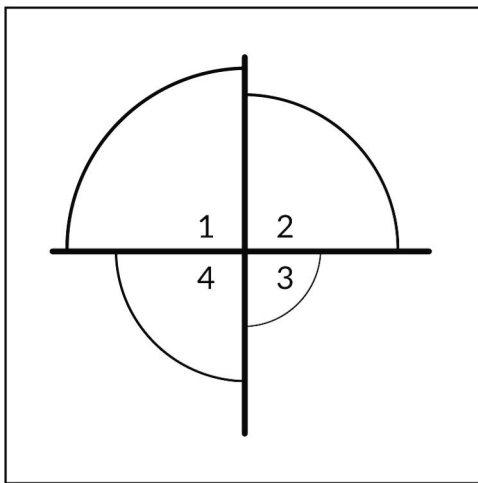
Quadrant 3:

Good relationship with God

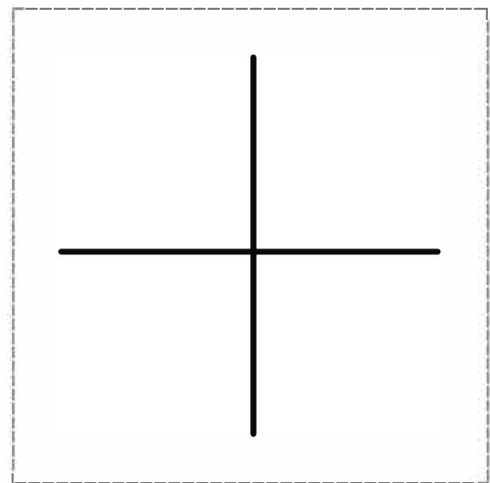


3.2 Based on the model in Luke 2:52, draw your current shape in the box below.

An imbalanced growth model



My growth model



Draw the quadrants for these four areas

3.2.1 What do the shape of the quadrants tell you? Discuss with your spiritual leader some growth strategies for the weaker quadrant(s).

Empty light blue rectangular box for discussion.

3.3 What was Jesus' relationship with his earthly parents when young? Luke 2:51

Empty light blue rectangular box for answer.

3.4 Jesus also demonstrated an unusual growth in an important area of life. What was it? Luke 2:46-47

Empty light blue rectangular box for answer.

4 Jesus is Fully Man

4.1 From the following passages, write down the traits of humanity Jesus demonstrated:

John 1:14

Matthew 4:2

John 4:6,7

Mark 4:38

Mark 3:5

Matthew 4:1

Matthew 13:55

John 19:30

5 His Personhood

5.1 Identify some aspects of human personhood (rationality and emotions) that Jesus had.

John 6:38

1 Corinthians
2:16

Matthew 9:36

John 11:35

6 Human but Sinless

6.1 In what ways do the following verses support the sinlessness of Jesus?

John 8:46

2 Corinthians
5:21

Hebrews 4:15

1 Peter 1:18-19

1 Peter 2:22

7 Reflection

7.1 Review the questions and answers in this chapter. What new truths have you learned about the nature of Jesus the man?



CHAPTER 2

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

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CHAPTER 2

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

In Chapter 1, we understand that Jesus had human nature. Now we will discover that Jesus also has another nature. We begin by noting the unusual names and titles given to Him by God, by angels, by people as well as by what he called Himself. They include:

<i>God</i>	<i>Saviour ('Jesus' itself means 'Saviour')</i>
<i>Son of Man</i>	<i>Messiah ('Anointed One'), translated as 'Christ'</i>
<i>Son of God</i>	<i>Son of David</i>
<i>Lord</i>	<i>Word of God</i>

All the names have a common characteristic; they all point to His divine nature. In this chapter we will study His divine attributes and His relationship to God the Father.

1 From the following verses note the attributes that Jesus had:

John 1:1

John 1:3

Matthew 28:18

Mark 2:7,10

Mark 2:8

John 16:30

2 What were some 'God-Acts' of the many miracles that Jesus performed to show He is God?

John 11:43-44

John 9:1-7;
32-33

Mark 1:23-27

Mark 1:40-42

Mark 4:35-41

Matthew
14:15-21

These miracles by themselves were significant. But seen in the Jewish context, they are even more significant. These point to works done by the long-expected Messiah who was God's Chosen One to deliver Israel and the world from their sins and sufferings. This was what Jesus proclaimed at the onset of His ministry in Luke 4:18-21. The source of the quotation Jesus used was Isaiah 61:1-2 in the Old Testament, a prophecy of the Messiah's future ministry actualised by Jesus.

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn

Isaiah 61:1-2

3 Who was Jesus in relationship to God the Father?

Matthew 3:17

John 10:29-30

John 5:18

John 5:19

John 5:21

John 5:22-23

John 5:26-27

John 14:8-9

4 What do the following verses tell us about the deity of Christ?

Colossians 1:15-16

Colossians 2:9

Hebrews 1:1-3

5 Based on what you have studied in Chapters 1 and 2, indicate whether the following statements about Jesus are true or false:

	<u>True/False</u>
Jesus had only 1 nature, that of a man	<input type="text"/>
Jesus is God and not man	<input type="text"/>
Jesus was 50% Man and 50% God	<input type="text"/>
Jesus was two persons in one body	<input type="text"/>
Jesus had two natures in one person	<input type="text"/>

The Scriptures affirm that Jesus was both 100% God and 100% human. In kind of a similar way we talk about the living Word and the written word both having these properties of humanity and deity; the written word is both 100% the word of God and the word of human authors, the word of men. But even more in a more precise way the Christ the person Jesus Christ of Nazareth was in His person 100% God in His nature and 100% divine in nature. So He had two natures in one person

Lecture 3, The Humanity of Christ, Biblical Training website,

Conclusion

We thus conclude that Jesus is fully man, manifesting the traits of a human being, but with the unique difference that He was sinless. He also manifested the traits of God, like being eternal, having the same authority and powers as God the Father. He was fully God. He was both God and man in a human body, the incarnation of God in human flesh.

6 Review the truths about the Deity of Jesus. Which of these truths impressed you most? How differently do you see Jesus now?



Jesus Christ has trod the world. The trace of Divine footsteps will never be obliterated. And the Divine footsteps were the steps of a Man... not an angel, not a disembodied spirit, not an abstract ideal, but the MAN JESUS CHRIST.

Peter Bayne



3

C H A P T E R

THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

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CHAPTER 3

THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

The Works of Jesus

Jesus had a public ministry over three years. He walked extensively over the land of Israel. Wherever He went, He brought His disciples with Him. He taught them, He taught the crowds, performed miracles, and healed many diseases.

Jesus was a great Teacher. He was called a Rabbi, one respected for being well-versed in the Word of God. His major discourses are recorded in the Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew, for example, records five discourses, one of which is the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

Jesus also taught the crowds who followed Him. After performing a miracle of feeding 5000 people, He taught the crowds about Himself being the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

Finally, Jesus spent much time with His disciples and taught them about God, relating to God in obedience, servanthood, following Him in discipleship, etc. In John's Gospel, Chapters 13 to 17 are devoted to what Jesus did and taught His disciples on the night before He was betrayed.

The Apostle John wrote very selectively about seven miracles which Jesus did. He also wrote that "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book" (John 20:30).

1 What were some of the kinds of good works that He did in the earlier part of His ministry from the following verses?

John 2:1-11

Luke 4:40,41

Acts 10:38

2 What other aspects of His ministry can be seen from these verses?

Luke 4:43

Matthew 13:34
-35

3 The Gospels record that Jesus had many serious conversations with individuals. What were some of the subject matters?

John 3:1-15, especially 3:3,4,5,8

John 4:4-26, especially 4:10,15

The Work of Jesus on the Cross

Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, fed hungry multitudes, and was a friend to social outcasts and sinners. He spoke words of wisdom and power which astounded his hearers.

He lived a sinless life but was put to death as a common criminal. But his story doesn't end there. His death, his resurrection, and his ascension into heaven mark the most amazing aspects of his life on earth.

4 What was the purpose for Jesus' coming into the world?
Matthew 1:21

5 What was Jesus' destiny which he told His disciples on several occasions? Matthew 16:21

6 What did John the Baptist call Jesus in John 1:29,36?

Note

The sacrifice of lambs played a very important role in the Jewish religious life and sacrificial system. Lambs had to be spotless, without any blemish, as they represented the perfect substitute for all the sins of the offeror. Thus Jesus, identified as God's Lamb was meant to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

7 What happened to our sins when Jesus died?
Isaiah 53:6 - *'We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.'*

8 What qualified Jesus to be the substitute for our sins?
2 Corinthians 5:21

9 According to Hebrews 10:3-4 what was inadequate about the animal sacrifices?

10 In what way is Jesus' sacrifice superior to the animal sacrifices?
Hebrews 9:13-14

11 If animal sacrifices are inadequate substitutes, what about other human beings?

Romans 3:10

Psalms 49:7-8

12 Can a person do good works to save himself? Ephesians 2:8-9

13 How do we take part in Jesus' sacrifice?

13.1 Acts 3:19

13.2 John 3:16

13.3 Romans
10:9-10

In summary, your response may be summarised as A-B-C:

- Admit you are a Sinner in need of God's forgiveness
- Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross for your sins
- Confess Jesus as your Saviour and Lord

If you would like to call upon Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, here is a sample prayer:

*Heavenly Father,
I thank you for drawing me to Yourself. I admit I am a sinner and deserve your judgment (Pause, and if God speaks to you about specific sins, admit them before God by name). Thank you for your forgiveness. I believe that you sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. I confess that Jesus is God and I ask Him to enter my life as my Lord and Saviour. I desire to follow and love Him as my Lord. Amen*

Remember:

It's not the prayer that saves; it's the repentance and faith behind the prayer that lays hold of salvation.

Jesus Rose from the Dead

14 What did Jesus say would happen to Him after His death?
John 2:19-22

15 Jesus appeared to many people after His resurrection. Who were some of the eye-witnesses? 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

16 What did the apostles repeatedly testify to, despite opposition and persecution?

Acts 3:14-15

Acts 4:33

17 What does the resurrection prove? Romans 1:4

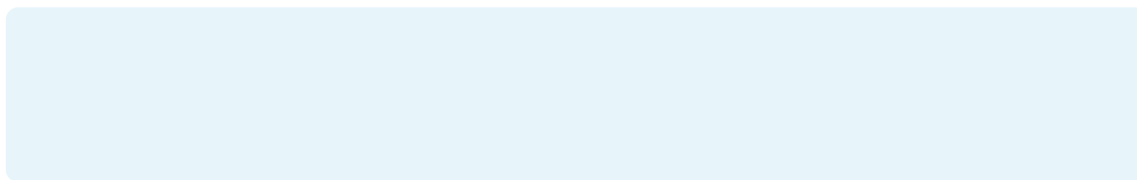
Jesus Ascended to Heaven

18 In Acts 1:9-11, as the disciples watched, what happened to Jesus?

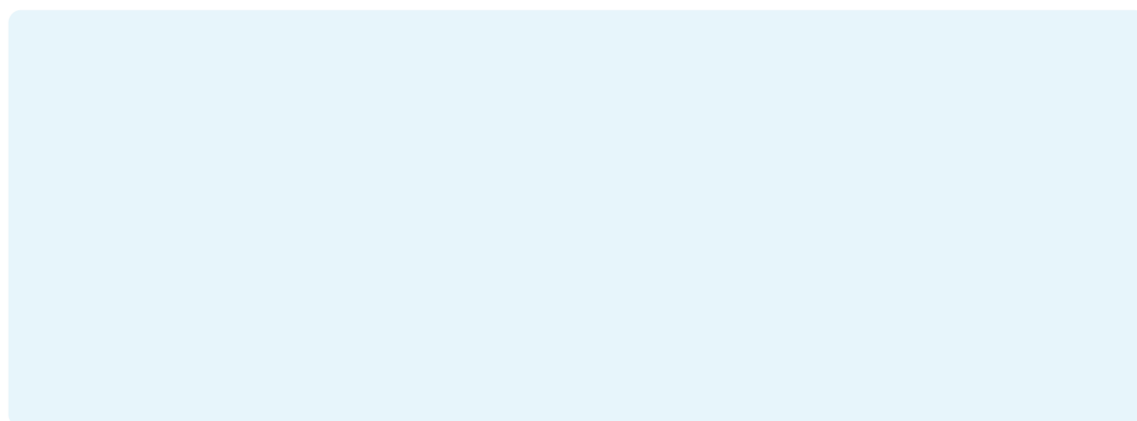
19 In John 14:1-2, for what reason did Jesus tell his disciples he was going to heaven?

20 In John 14:3, what else did he promise?

21 In Ephesians 1:20-23, over how much does Christ now rule?



22 Review the questions and your answers in this chapter. Have you learned something that is especially important to you? If so, write it down here, and explain how it can help you:





CHAPTER

4

JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

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CHAPTER 4

JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

When we have a personal relationship with Jesus, expressed through faith, Jesus enters your life. Then begins an exciting discovery of blessings from God, experiencing Jesus every day and growing in your relationship with Him.

Assurance

When we are new in a relationship, many things are uncertain. But with God, if you have decided to believe and follow Him, these are the certainties:

1 If we confess our sins, what will happen to them? 1 John 1:9

2 In 1 John 5:11-12, what has God given us through Christ? Can we have that gift without Christ?

3 What right (relationship) does faith in Jesus confer on a person? John 1:12

4 Can anything cut us off from the love of God? Romans 8:35-39

Christ as Saviour and Lord

When we are first introduced to the Jesus Christ, we are generally focussed on Jesus as Saviour since salvation from sin is our great need. However, the saviourhood of Christ can never be separated from the lordship of Christ. If we accept Him as Saviour, we must also acknowledge Him as Lord.

Luke 2:11

Romans 10:9,10

2 Peter 1:11

Philippians 3:20

1 What repetitions do the above verses make?

2 Have you then received Jesus Christ as Lord knowingly and willingly?

Jesus is not Savior or Lord. Jesus is Savior *and* Lord.

Experiencing Christ

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not just a historical figure to be believed in. He is meant to be experienced in your life. This was the deep desire of Jesus' disciples. In Colossians 1:27, the Apostle Paul wrote that Christ in us (thus experiencing Christ), is the hope of glory—the ultimate desire.

We can thus experience Christ in the various situations and needs we may find ourselves in. Here are some relevant ones. Look up the references beside each situation or need and write out the promise and see how you can experience Jesus in that situation or need.

Following Jesus - Matthew 24:12-13

My faith is small - Mark 9:24

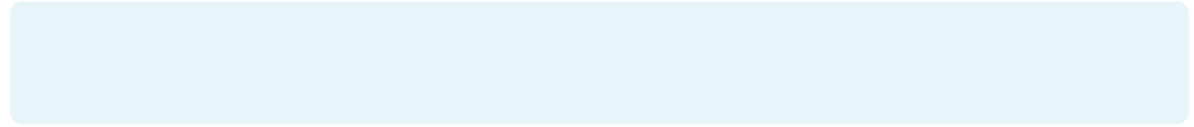
Lack of peace - John 14:27

Stressed - John 16:33

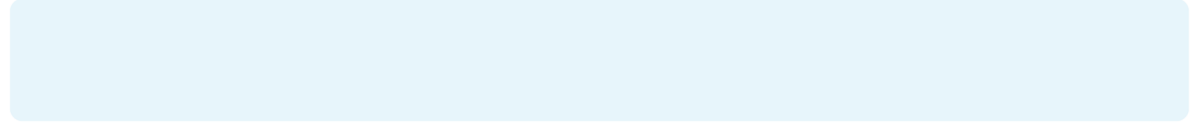
Facing temptations - 1 Corinthians 10:13

I am burdened - Matthew 11:28-29

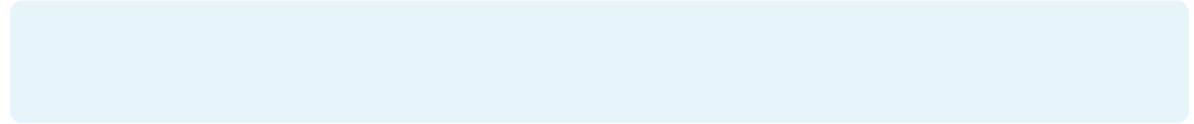
I need prayer - Hebrews 7:25



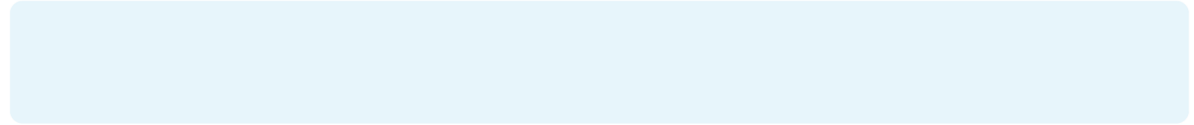
I don't have many friends - John 15:13-14



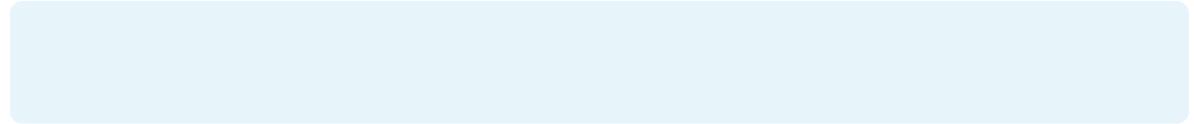
I don't feel cared for - John 10:9,11



I have suffered so much - Philippians 3:10



I lack strength - Philippians 4:13





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