



# Connect to God

## Leader's Guide

### Week 3

Topic: *Who is Jesus?*

**Pework Summary:** Read the full leader's guide and watch the videos. Note the time of the videos so you can plan well for discussion time.

**Script \*\*\*\***

**Speaker:** Maggi Jagannathan

***Jesus came to reveal God's love and character to us***

**Jesus is a Gift for Mankind**

I John 4:9-10 says, *"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* You can see God's love in action through the life of Jesus Christ. He both lived and died so that we can be reunited with God.

**Jesus is a Servant as an act of Love**

Philippians 2:6-8 [Jesus], *being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

Matthew 20:28 *"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**Jesus Fed The Hungry as an act of Love**

*"Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way." (Matthew 15:32).*

**Jesus Healed The Sick as an act of Love**

*"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).*

**Jesus Preached The Kingdom as an act of Love**

*"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things" (Mark 6:34).*

**Jesus Raised The Dead as an act of Love**

*“Jesus wept...once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance” (John 11:35, 38).*

### ***Jesus is the Son of God with all the authority of God***

#### **Jesus is the Son of God**

In Matthew 11:27, Jesus, the Son of God, said that He came to reveal the Father. *“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him”*

John 1:18: *“The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*

After the Feast of the Passover when Jesus was just 12 years old, He lingered in Jerusalem speaking with the teachers there. When His parents came back looking for Him and told Him that they had been anxiously seeking Him, what was Jesus' reply? *“And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’”* Luke then records, *“But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them”* (Luke 2:49-50).

#### **Jesus was given authority**

Matthew 28:18, And Jesus came and said to them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

John 6:38: *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

Jesus had the authority of God. The word “authority” denotes permission. It denotes privilege; it denotes power; it denotes rule, control, influence. When someone has authority, that means they're on top of other people. They have responsibility beyond the norm. They are able to determine things, to decide things, to render judgments, to wield certain rights and privileges. And we say in the home there's authority, resting with the Father, with the parents. In the government there are authorities: the police and those who govern us. In the schools there are authorities. In business, in the plant, in the job – in any dimension of life there are authorities, people who have the privilege, the power, the permission to set the rules, to determine the judgments and the verdicts.

Jesus had authority to teach whatever He wanted to teach. He had authority to heal the sick. He had authority to forgive sin. He had authority to cast out demons. Jesus had tremendous authority and power from God.

#### ***Jesus was a master teacher***

Luke 15 for example and many others Scriptures show Jesus had a teaching method. He used parables and stories of common objects to teach profound truth. By his simple stories he

revealed God in a way his hearers could understand. No wonder it is said of him, "The common people heard him gladly." He was, of course, the master storyteller.

Matthew 5-7 is Jesus most famous teaching and it was done on a hillside. He never entered a classroom as we know a classroom. He never had a degree as we understand an educational degree, yet all the world was his classroom. No degreed teacher did anything greater than what Jesus Christ did. He was truly and absolutely the Master Teacher and the greatest teacher of all time.

Jesus said much the same thing in Luke 6:40, "*Everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.*" As the King James says, "*When a student has been fully formed, he will become like his master.*" That is the frightening aspect of teaching. He took a small group of undeveloped, basically uneducated men, mostly from the countryside, and grew them into a band of leaders who after his departure changed the course of world history. The whole Christian movement after 2,000 years can be traced back to Jesus equipping 12 men.

Matthew 28:19-20, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

His final command was to go and teach others what he had taught them. Across the world approximately two billion people bear his name. Christianity has spread from Jerusalem to every corner of the world. At this very moment multiplied thousands of missionaries are doing what Jesus said to do: teaching all nations. Therefore, I say to you, if the success of the students is the measure of the teacher, then no teacher was ever so successful as the one and only Master Teacher, Jesus Christ..

**End Script \*\*\*\***

### **Key Scriptures to Review:**

Matthew 11:27

Luke 6:40

1 John 4: 9-10

### **Tough questions prep:**

1) Was Jesus really resurrected? Could Jesus' body have been stolen from the tomb? People have said "Well, maybe robbers stole the body." What's interesting here is that the tomb contained only one thing that would have held any worth to robbers - and that is the grave-clothes, filled with expensive spices. Peter and John heard the rumor that Jesus was risen. They ran to the tomb and found not an empty tomb at all. The valuable grave-clothes were still there, like an empty chrysalis after the butterfly has emerged from the cocoon. And the headpiece, the piece around Jesus' head, had been folded up and put in a separate place. And we're told that when John took one look at that evidence, that was enough: he believed.

Other people have said "Well, maybe the disciples came along and they stole the body, and began a rumor that Jesus was risen." Leaving aside the fact that the tomb was guarded, the theory is highly improbable, simply from a psychological perspective. These men were depressed, disillusioned. They'd put all their hope in Jesus and he had died.

Something extraordinary then happened to totally transform those people — so much that they were willing to suffer and die themselves. In later years many of them would be tortured, they themselves would be executed for what they believed about Jesus.....if they knew that Jesus' body was buried in their back garden, would they have been willing to die for what they knew to be a lie?

Others have said "Well, maybe the authorities stole the body." But that is absurd: because if the authorities stole the body, all they needed to do when people were saying "Jesus is risen from the dead" was to produce it ..... but they never did.

## *Class Timeline:*

|                               | Estimated time          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Introductions               | 5 min                   |
| 2 Play the Teaching Video     | Maggi Jagannathan 9 Min |
| 3 Discussion Questions        | 15 min                  |
| 4 Play the Testimonial Video  | Doug Black 4 min        |
| 5 The Names of Jesus activity | 20 min                  |
| 6 Takeaways                   | 1 min                   |
| 7 Prayer                      | 1 min                   |
| 8 Invitation for next week    | 1 min                   |

### **1. Introduce the content and video for this class (in your own words):**

*Last week we learned that the Bible says, "God is love." (1 John 4:16). It is not possible for God to be perfect or holy if God is not also love. In eternity, God will fellowship with us face to face. If God were to be love but have no fellowship, then God would not express His nature. God shows that He is love when he lives in perfect communion with His children. God sent us Jesus as an act of love. Jesus came to forgive us for our sins and bring union between us and God. Jesus is the bridge to our relationship with God. Today we will talk about Jesus and why he came as a human as an act of love. Let's watch today's video.*

### **2. Play the teaching video (9:13).**

### **3. Discussion questions (pages 13 and 14):**

1. Why did we need God to come to earth in a human form as Jesus? (nudge them to include more than salvation)

2. If Jesus could live sinless as a human on earth, is it possible for us to become like Christlike? Why or why not?
3. If Jesus is our model/teacher for Christian life, what are the steps we should take to learn from him?

#### **4. Play the Testimonial Video (4 min)**

#### **5. Optional Activity as time allows (page 15):**

Have them name the different descriptions of Jesus found in Scripture if you sense they know some Scripture. You can go in circle with letting people pass until they run out or you can let them call out.

### **NAMES OF JESUS CHRIST**

#### **Advocate (1 John 2:1)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ pleads our case before the Father, when Satan (that accuser of the brethren) is accusing us. Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He sets us free and declares us righteous.

#### **Lamb of God (John 1:29)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ was slain, as a perfectly innocent sacrifice, for the sins of the world. He gave His life and His blood as a ransom for all of us. He died to give us life.

#### **The Resurrection & the Life (John 11:25)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. His resurrection power gives us the strength to overcome obstacles in life and experience His victory in all circumstances.

#### **Shepherd & Bishop of Souls (1 Peter 2:25)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ cares for us and guides us, as a Shepherd who cares for His lambs. He leads us beside still waters and helps us to rest in Him.

#### **Judge (Acts 10:42)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ will judge the nations and the people, according to their deeds. He doesn't look at our words, but He sees our actions and will reward each of us.

#### **Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the most exalted Name above all names, who reigns forever. He has all authority in heaven and on earth and He receives all the glory and the praise, forever and ever.

#### **Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ took our sickness and pain upon himself to bring us healing and deliverance. He healed all who came to Him and gave them a new future of hope and freedom.

**Head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body of Christ, the True Leader of us all.

**Master (Matthew 8:19)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is our Great Master, the Commander, the One we obey with all our hearts. We don't follow our own will, but listen to His voice and follow Him.

**Faithful & True Witness (Revelation 3:14)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ doesn't lie, He is trustworthy in what He says, He has no hidden agenda. What He says is Yes and Amen.

**Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the sure foundation of our lives. We can build on Him, knowing our house will stand firm, even in the storms.

**High Priest (Hebrews 6:20)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gave His blood as a perfect and eternal sacrifice for all of us. He gave Himself on the altar of God, to wash away all our sins and shame.

**The Door (John 10:9)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the door for all of us to enter into relationship with the Father and become children of God. When we enter through Jesus Christ we will find the true life we are looking for..

**Living Water (John 4:10)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gives us the streams of living water, that flow from our belly. This living water is the Holy Spirit.

**Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gave up Himself as food for all mankind. When we eat of Him, and drink His blood (spiritual) our sins are forgiven and we become one with Him.

**Rose of Sharon (Song of Solomon 2:1)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the most beautiful person there is and He brings healing to our souls and bodies.

**Alpha & Omega (Revelation 22:13)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, in Him everything finds its origin and destiny, He is the author and finisher of our faith.

**True Vine (John 15:1)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the vine and we are the branches. If we remain in Him, we will bear lasting fruit, to the glory of the Father.

**Messiah (Daniel 9:25)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the long expected savior of Israel and the world, promised by the prophets in the Old Testament.

**Teacher (John 3:2)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gives us the wisdom and insights we need to live a fruitful and good life, with His peace and joy as the result.

**Holy One (Mark 1:24)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God, the blameless and perfect one, who is the image of God Himself.

**Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gave His life and His blood as a ransom for us, so we can be forgiven and enter into a wonderful relationship with God, as our loving Father.

**The Beloved (Ephesians 1:6)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the deeply beloved Son of the heavenly Father, who reveals to us the heart of our God, who also deeply loves us.

**Branch (Isaiah 11:1)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Son of Man, a direct descendant from Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, etc. He is God in the flesh.

**Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep, to give them life in abundance.

**Light of the World (John 8:12)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the true light in the world, which shows us who God really is and how we can become children of God.

**Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the reflection and expression of His heavenly Father, and shows us in a perfect way who God is.

**The Word (John 1:1)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Word of God who became flesh. In Him is all the wisdom and knowledge of God.

**Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the strong foundation of our faith. On Him we build a dwelling of God, in the Spirit.

#### **Savior (John 4:42)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ did not come to put the weight of religion on us, but to save us from our sins and from the power of satan.

#### **Servant (Matthew 12:18)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Kind of kings and Lord of lords, yet He came to serve us, by laying down His life for us.

#### **Author & Finisher of Our Faith (Hebrews 12:2)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the one who calls us to follow Him, and He is the One who helps us walk the path of perseverance of our faith.

#### **The Almighty (Revelation 1:8)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ has received all power, in heaven and on earth. His names is exalted high above every other name. He reigns forever and ever.

#### **Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the everlasting father of all of us, who have become children of God thanks to Him.

#### **Shiloh (Genesis 49:10)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gives us true and lasting peace, and He teaches us to be still and know that he is our God. We are safe in Him.

#### **Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the eternal prophet of God, the One who roars from Zion, to let His voice be heard all over the world.

#### **I Am (John 8:58)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ has always existed and will always exist. He is the eternal God of Israel, who is always with us, wherever we go.

#### **King of Kings (1 Timothy 6:15)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ has all the authority in heaven, on earth and under the earth. He is the eternal King and every knee shall bow before Him.

#### **Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gives us deep inner peace and harmony. He reconciles us with the Father, creating peace between man and His creator.

#### **Bridegroom (Matthew 9:15)**



Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church is the Bride. He is preparing us to become blameless and perfect as a beautiful shining Bride, to be at His side forever.

**Only Begotten Son (John 3:16)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the Son of God because the Holy Spirit came over the virgin mary and made her pregnant with God Himself.

**Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the source of all godly wisdom, helping us overcome challenges in life and giving us direction through His Holy Spirit.

**Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is God with us, the revelation of the everlasting presence of God within His beloved people.

**Son of Man (Matthew 20:28)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is also the Son of Man, because He was born from the virgin mary, as a descendant of the forefathers of Israel.

**Dayspring (Luke 1:78)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the new day of hope and victory for the church, the bright shining morningstar who gives us hope for the future, where He will bring His kingdom more and more to the earth.

**The Amen (Revelation 3:14)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is reliable and true, His words are trustworthy and eternal, there is no higher witness than He Himself.

**King of the Jews (Mark 15:26)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the expected Messiah, the One who will establish the true eternal Kingdom of God among His people.

**Prophet (Matthew 21:11)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of the heart of God. He is the voice of God in the earth through His Holy Spirit.

**Redeemer (Job 19:25)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ gave His life and blood as a ransom for us, to set us free and to restore what satan has stolen and destroyed.

**Anchor (Hebrews 6:19)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is our assurance of salvation, all through our life. In Him we find strength and peace, in times of trouble.

**Bright Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ is the hope for mankind, the breakthrough of the kingdom of God. The night has passed away and in Christ there is a eternal new day, full of glory.

**The Way, the Truth, & the Life (John 14:6)**

Meaning: Jesus Christ said no one comes to the Father but through Him.

**Play the short personal testimony video (time 3:38) Discuss, if time remains:** Ask them Jesus has taught them anything in their life or if they have ever thought of Jesus as their teacher?

**6. Closing / takeaways in your own words:**

1. Jesus came to reveal God's love and character to us
2. Jesus is the Son of God with all the authority of God
3. Jesus is the master teacher which is why you should follow him

**7. Prayer:**

Instead of including a lesson devoted to how to pray, class leaders will model how to pray each of the six weeks of Connect to God. Before you close in prayer, briefly explain P.R.A.Y. method of prayer (praise, repent, ask and yield) and lead participants through this format. Then pray over them.

Example: *Father, we praise for being such a great teacher for us. You are the way, the truth and light. Please forgive us when we think we know it all and stop learning all we can. Please help us to seek and love you with our heart, soul, mind and strength. We choose to live as you have instructed. We choose to live within your will.*

|               |                 |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>PRAISE</b> | Matthew 6:9     | "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"   |
| <b>REPENT</b> | Matthew 6:12    | "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."  |
| <b>ASK</b>    | Matthew 6:11&13 | "Give us this day our daily bread."<br><br>"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]" |
| <b>YIELD</b>  | Matthew 6:10    | "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."   |

**8. Invite them back next week to learn why did 'Jesus have to die?'**