

Christmas ✨ Unwrapped.

WEEK 2 | Jesus the Son of Man

PRAYER

We thank You God that through Jesus, we can have eternal life with You. We pray for God's grace to live this out here on earth— that our hearts may be fixed on the things that are eternal, not temporary. We pray that we would trust you God in all things, and that You remove any fear or doubt that would hinder us from trusting who You are and Your plans for our life. We pray that You would use us to be a blessing to others this Christmas. We ask you God for wisdom and for open doors to preach the gospel to friends and family.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

Adapted from Victory Christian Fellowship, *Unwrapping the Present: Son of Man*

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

When you think of Christmas, what memories come to mind? If you don't have any memories, what does Christmas mean to you?

PRAYER



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2022 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

WORD

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

[JOHN 1: 43-51](#)

In this story, Jesus had just called His first disciples to follow Him. Among these was Philip, who loved pointing others to Jesus. Philip found Nathanael sitting under a fig tree and, with enthusiasm, told him that the man foretold by Moses and prophets had come. Nathanael had his doubts, but Jesus turned them into faith. Nathanael then praised Jesus and called Him the Son of God, while Jesus went a step further by speaking of the Son of Man. Today, we will explore these titles of Jesus and their significance during—and beyond—Christmas.

Jesus is the Son of Man.

And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

[JOHN 1:51](#)

Nathanael's response to Jesus' wisdom seemed to be an earthly and political statement. Little did he know that Jesus would not only reign on earth, but the kingdom of heaven would also come. Jesus tells him that the heavens would be opened with "angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man". While some people associate this title with humanity and humility, it speaks of a glorious and heavenly ruler. Daniel had a preview of this Son of Man who would establish an eternal kingdom and rule forever, not only for Israel, but also other nations ([DANIEL 7:13-14](#)). The picture that Jesus showed Nathanael is the fulfillment of a similar dream that the patriarch Jacob had of angels going up and down a ladder ([GENESIS 28:10-19](#)). Ultimately, Jesus bridges heaven and earth together by being the means of getting to heaven, while also being the means of heaven coming down here on earth. These two titles of Jesus affirm both His humanity and divinity. We can celebrate Christmas because Christ came down to live among us, ultimately giving Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sin, so that in Him we may have eternal life.

Nathanael doubted Philip's claim that the man Moses and the prophets spoke of was someone from Nazareth, a small, rural town that surely a king would not come from. But God works differently than we humans think—He chooses the foolish and little things to accomplish His grand plans. When Jesus told Nathanael that He saw him before Philip did, Nathanael's doubts were removed, and he acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God. This title referred to the promised Saviour King from the line of David who would bring restoration to Israel and rule with peace, justice, and righteousness. How does this change the way you think of the wise men who gave gifts to Jesus when He was born ([MATTHEW 2:1-11](#))?

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how would you rate your capacity to turn down distraction when you are trying to focus? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. What or who would you say is in charge/has rulership over your life? How do you know they rule in your life?
3. Consider the disciple Philip, who immediately left what he was doing to follow Jesus, and thus invited others to experience Jesus the way that he did. Would you respond the same way, by leaving whatever you need in order to follow Him? If so, have you invited others to experience what you have experienced in Jesus? If not, what might be your hesitation?
4. Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" - ([JOHN 1:49](#)). Have you ever been blown away by God revealing himself to you? If so, can you remember what happened and how you responded? If not, would you like to experience who Jesus really is?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust him? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.