

Small Group Study: Week 10

Welcome to week ten of the “Off the Shelf” Small Group study. Throughout this 13 week series, we pray this study will help you and your group further grasp the overall story of the Bible and what it means for your lives today. This study will build on each weekend’s sermon, so please make it a priority to listen to the sermon before meeting with your group each week. If you were unable to catch the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/sermons. Also, if you need an online Bible, please download the YouVersion Bible App from the App Store or Google Play.



Getting Started

Last week we began a two-week study about Jesus’ humanity and divinity. The accounts we read last week and will read this week both come from the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These four books are ancient biographies that were written to explain who Jesus was, what he did, and what it means to follow him.

Last week we looked at Jesus as a child and talked about the idea of Jesus being fully human. This week we are discussing Jesus’ divinity. In other words, Jesus is both fully-human and fully-God.

- ▶ Toward the beginning of the sermon this past weekend, Pastor Wayne talked about tattoos. He mentioned that sometimes people regret getting tattoos. To get the conversation started this week, have each person share a hairstyle they had, or an article of clothing they used to wear, that they would never wear today — bonus points for embarrassing pictures.
- ▶ For those who participated in one of the Bible reading plans last week, what was your biggest takeaway?



Read Matthew 16:13-20

Last week we examined Jesus’ humanity, saying Jesus came as God’s Son, fully human. Jesus’ human nature reminds us that God knows what it’s like to be human. He understands our times of suffering and joy. He sympathizes with the human condition, both good and bad.

Amazingly, God knows what it’s like to be human, but humanity in general, and human individuals like you and I need more than a common sympathizer. We need someone to get us beyond the frailty of our human need and sin. We need a divine Jesus to satisfy and secure our future. We see very clearly in this passage that Jesus is the son of God; he is the one who came to rescue us from our sin. As Pastor Wayne said, “God is on a mission to remove evil from His good world, along with all of its corrosive effects. However, He wants to do it in a way that does not involve removing humans”.



Talk About It

- ▶ In your own words, summarize the significance of Jesus being fully-man and fully-God. Why couldn’t Jesus be partially human and partially God?
- ▶ Why would Jesus have instructed his disciples to keep his true identity quiet?

Off the Shelf



Talk About It Continued

- ▶ What does Jesus' divinity mean for your life today?
- ▶ Pastor Wayne talked about the two goats that were a part of the Day of Atonement (recorded in Leviticus 16). One goat was sacrificed to pay the penalty for the peoples' sin. The high priest then would place the sins of the people on the head of the other goat, and the goat would be sent off into the wilderness. Pastor Wayne said that Jesus represents both of these goats. Explain that in your own words.



Watch

- ▶ Watch the "Off the Shelf Small Group Video Week 10". The video is available on the leader blog at <https://fccgrowtogether.org>.



Talk About It

Pastor Wayne spoke on the video about the Transfiguration recorded in Matthew 17. Once again, Jesus was identified as God's son. God himself identified Jesus as being divine, and yet Jesus told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone until after the resurrection. As Pastor Wayne said, Jesus came to change our lives and to allow us to experience grace. It has nothing to do with what we do. It is because of what our divine savior has done for us that we can experience grace.

Over the weekend, Pastor Wayne said that we have three responses to the divinity of Jesus and the grace he has shown us. The first is to surrender our lives to him actively. Once we've done that we must repent, or daily choose to live as Jesus did. Finally, we worship, or we use 100% of our lives to point to Jesus.

- ▶ What do you think the Transfiguration would have been like? Why would Jesus tell Peter, James, and John to keep quiet what they had experienced?
- ▶ What does it mean to surrender our lives to Jesus actively? What keeps us from doing that?
- ▶ How is living as Jesus did, the same thing as repentance? How is orienting our lives toward pointing to Jesus, a form of worship?
- ▶ Which of these three areas (surrender, repentance, worship) do you need to work on most right now? How are you going to do that? What is at stake if you don't?
- ▶ What is your most important take away from this week's discussion?



Pray

Pray for one another this week that you will surrender to, repent and live lives of worship to God. Ask God to reveal the importance and power of Jesus' divinity.



Bible Reading Plan

Please continue reading the Bible reading plan together as a group in the week ahead. Encourage one another throughout the week to stay engaged.