



WEEK 4: THE SON OF GOD

Welcome to the week four small group guide for the "Foretold: Jesus throughout the Bible" series. As we work through this series, we hope that each week's discussion will be an opportunity for you and your group to dig deeper into each weekend's sermon.

If you were unable to watch the sermon last weekend, please check it out at <https://www.firstdecatour.org/sermons/>



START

Throughout this Lenten series, we are studying prophecies in the Old Testament that point to who Jesus is as the Messiah. As Pastor Wayne pointed out, one crucial prophecy was that Jesus would be the "Son of God." How we understand that has serious implications for our faith. However, before we dive into that discussion, let's start with something a little lighter. As we begin today, **please begin by answering the questions below.**

- ▶ As Pastor Wayne began this weekend, he asked some opinion questions (listed below). Start today by having each person in your group pick one of these questions and make a compelling argument for why their perspective is correct.
 - Is green the flavor of lime or apple?
 - Does toilet paper go over or under the roll?
 - Are Macs or PCs better?
 - Are Dogs or Cats better?
 - Is pineapple an acceptable topping for pizza?

Now that you are warmed up let's dive in.



READ PSALM 2 TOGETHER AS A GROUP

This passage, when it was initially written and placed in the Jewish songbook hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, was viewed as a psalm about King David. This Psalm speaks about the nations of the world plotting against both God himself and his anointed one. Over time, people began to understand that this passage referred to the Messiah, God's ultimate anointed one. Verse 7 specifically refers to God's anointed as his Son.

As Pastor Wayne mentioned, throughout church history, there have been differing opinions about all sorts of matters, including Jesus. While everyone agreed that Christianity was based on his work and ministry, there were many questions about who Jesus was. If he was God's son, was he God? Was he human? Was Jesus equal to God in heaven?

In response to these questions, in 325 AD, Constantine, the Roman Emperor, assembled a council to discuss these questions. As Pastor Wayne said, the group decided Jesus was, in fact, fully God and fully human. He was God's son fully engaged in the creation, long before coming to earth as a man. The doctrine of the Trinity was formulated. A creed, a statement of belief, was established that is still used in many Christian settings today. It's called the Nicene Creed.

- ▶ As you look at Psalm 2, what word or phrase jumps out to you? Why do you believe that word or phrase has significance for you today?
- ▶ In your own words, describe what it means that Jesus is the Son of God. What does that mean for you today?
- ▶ A portion of the Nicene Creed is below. Take time to read it together as a group. What word or phrase jumps out to you? What does this Creed communicate about Jesus as the Son of God?

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

LUNATIC, LIAR, OR LORD

As Pastor Wayne mentioned, as Christians, we believe that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament view of a coming Messiah (God's Son) who blesses all who take refuge in Him. However, while the leaders of Jesus' day knew the Messiah would be God's son, it seemed ludicrous to them that some guy raised in a carpenter's home in Nazareth could be the Messiah. In fact, it was Jesus claiming to be the Son of God that was ultimately used to justify killing him.

As I mentioned earlier, our understanding of who Jesus is has serious implications for our faith. Since Jesus himself claimed to be God's son, we really only have three options. We can believe:

1. Jesus was crazy and deceiving himself about who he was.
2. Jesus was a liar and the greatest scam artist in history, who continues to dupe people today.
3. He was telling the truth, and he is the Son of God.

As Pastor Wayne said, if we choose to believe Jesus is who he said he was, then we need to respond with radical discipleship. In other words, there's nothing half-baked about following Jesus. It's not some sort of kind, gentle lifestyle without demands. No, discipleship, following Jesus has demands. Following Jesus means living as he lived and, as he stated: Love God, love others. It's not love God sometimes and only love some people.

Our discipleship means choosing right over wrong – always. It means honesty, and integrity, even when it costs us because honesty will cost us at times. It means gentleness and kindness, generosity of soul and pocketbook. Living differently means different language patterns, different keyboard stroke habits, different lifestyle choices, different priorities. It's a high calling, a high demand. It's not prideful. Grace and love cover a multitude of sins committed by and against us in a variety of different settings – as many different settings as there are Christians.

- ▶ Where do you stand regarding Jesus being lunatic, liar, or Lord? How does that understanding impact the way you live?
- ▶ Pastor Wayne talked about discipleship being radical. What does that mean? If discipleship is supposed to be radical, does your life reflect that? If not, what would need to change for that to be the case?
- ▶ Using the examples in the two paragraphs above these questions, how have you seen following Jesus transform you?