



I. WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHO JESUS IS

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for...he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.
 Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.
 Colossians 1:15-16 (MSG)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
 John 3:16 (NLT)

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- 1. Who wrote it?**
- 2. When was it written?**
- 3. Whom was it written to?**
- 4. Why was it written?**

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

John 20:30-31 (NLT)

Whereas the first three Gospels major on describing the events in the life of Christ, John emphasizes the meaning of those events. For example, all four Gospels record the feeding of the 5000, but only John records Jesus' sermon on "The Bread of Life" which followed the miracle when He interpreted it for the people.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe

Matthew says, “This is the Messiah, the King; worship Him.” Mark says, “This is the Servant who served humanity; follow Him.” Luke says, “This is the only Man among men without sin; emulate Him.” John says, “This is God in human flesh; believe in Him.”

Chuck Swindoll

III. THE GREATNESS OF JESUS—JOHN 1:1-18

1. Who Jesus is:

- **Jesus is eternal (v.1-2)**

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

John 17:5-6 (NLT)

Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.” The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!” At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

John 8:56-59 (NLT)

- **Jesus is creator (v.3)**

And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.

Hebrews 1:2 (NLT)

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)

- **Jesus is life (v.4)**

- **Jesus is light (v.5-6)**

2. What Jesus did:

- **Jesus made a relationship with God possible (v.6-13)**

- **Jesus revealed God the Father to us (v.14-18)**

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

John 14:8-9 (NLT)