

# JESUS OVER ALL

**+** **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

Jesus's divinity is revealed in His works, His claims, and in His very nature.

**+** **BACKGROUND PASSAGES:**

John 10; Hebrews 1

**+** **SETTING:**

John 10 may not be chronological with this unit, but it is certainly thematic. Not surprisingly, Jesus is in the midst of a tense debate with Jewish authorities over His healing of a blind man (John 9). The crowd had confirmed that this man was born blind, and Jesus had revealed that those who didn't believe His miracles were spiritually blind (vv. 39-41). He went on to point out a distinct divide between those standing around Him: those who followed Him and those who didn't. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, but not all Jews were His sheep.

# DAY 1

## READ:

**John 10:22-30**

## FOCAL PASSAGE:

**John 10:25-27**

## NOTES

It always comes back to sheep in the Bible, doesn't it? Isaac had so many sheep that the Philistines were jealous (Genesis 26:14). When Jacob met Rachel, she was a shepherdess tending to her sheep, and he mustered enough strength to move the stone off of the well to access water for them (29:9-10). Jacob's sons were shepherds of sheep (37:2), and in that setting the brothers started to hate Joseph. Moses tended sheep, and a sheep was to be offered for an acceptable sacrifice so that death would pass over the houses of the Israelites who had been enslaved in Egypt (Exodus 12:5). David was a shepherd, and Psalm 23 is one of his most beloved and cherished songs.

So we shouldn't be surprised at all that God carries this theme throughout the New Testament. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us—His sheep. All the stereotypes of sheep are there: smelly, easily frightened, able to get lost, followers of herd mentality. That's sheep—that's us!

The parallels between sheep and Jesus's followers can't be missed: We must follow the Shepherd if we have any chance at all in this world. Accepting that you're a sheep to a Good Shepherd takes humility and an honest assessment of ourselves. In fact, most of our testimonies point to our wayward-sheep past compared to our Psalm 23 present. The Jewish leaders of Jesus's day couldn't stoop that low to recognize themselves as sheep. Consequently, they weren't really His sheep.

**How can someone humble himself/herself to become a sheep of Jesus, a true believer?**

# DAY 2

## READ:

John 10:22-30

## FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 10:25-30

## NOTES

As a mother of young teens, I often find myself lamenting aloud to them, sarcastically, “If only someone had warned you this might happen.” For example, there is a standing rule in our household that says this: take a water bottle every time we leave the house in a car. If we get somewhere and my kids are thirsty with nothing to drink, I’ll drop my famous line, “If only someone had told you a hundred times to take water.” Or when my son realizes on a Thursday afternoon that he needs to find three sources and write 800 words for his paper due tomorrow. Again, me: “If only someone had been asking you every day if you’d been working on this project you knew about two weeks ago.”

I’m a prideful, nagging mother, but deep down I just need my kids to hear me clearly: I try to speak truth into their lives. I’m a decently smart woman who will help them through life, but they don’t always trust me or want to obey what I say.

Though Jesus doesn’t do it with sarcasm like I do, this seems to be the gist behind Jesus’s words in John 10:25 when He tells them that He did tell them but they didn’t believe Him. They had heard Him. Their ears worked perfectly fine. They had seen Him do miracles like driving out demons, raising the dead, and healing the sick. Yet they still didn’t believe. Perhaps we adults need this reminder today: Jesus speaks truth. He knows what He’s talking about. He’ll get us through life. We’ve seen it, and we’ve read it in His Word. Now, we just need to trust it.

**What might Jesus be telling you that you are having a hard time truly hearing and believing?**

# DAY 3

## READ:

John 10:22-39

## FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 10:30-39

## NOTES

I started taking piano lessons at age 7. I had five different piano teachers throughout my childhood and teenage years, all wonderful musicians and wonderful people. They guided me musically and encouraged me to pursue that passion into a music degree in college.

I didn't realize that piano lessons continued in college until I went to register for classes and realized I had to take a weekly piano lesson that counted for two hours of credit. But I walked into that first lesson with the teacher assigned to me, Dr. Robert Marler. I didn't know him, but he greeted me with a warm smile and invited me to sit down at the piano in his office.

I had some books with me, and he asked what I'd been practicing. I showed him a couple of the pieces, and he mentioned that he particularly loved one of them. "May I?" he asked, and I slid down the bench so he could have access to the keys. He began to play the piece from heart, with expertise and precision I'd never heard. My jaw dropped. I knew immediately that I would hang on every word he said.

I can only imagine that Jesus was this masterful at everything He did. I'm sure that His prayers were works of art. His compassion was palpable. His honesty was evident to every person who looked His way. He was doing the Father's works (v. 37), revealing that He truly is the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Only a fool or a hardened heart would not believe in His identity based on His works.

**What works of Christ can you praise Him for today?**

# DAY 4

## READ:

**Psalm 82**

## FOCAL PASSAGE:

**Psalm 82:1-4**

## NOTES

This passage might seem to be out of place in the midst of all our lessons in the Gospels. But Jesus quotes one phrase from it in this week's passage, so let's take some time today to consider it in its entirety.

The Christian Standard Bible subtitles this "A Plea for Righteous Judgment." The English Standard Version dubs it "Rescue the Weak and Needy." Asaph's song is wonderfully complex and pointedly authoritative, and we might wonder that he didn't live in our 2023 political climate.

The setting is revealed in the opening lines: God stands among other gods, pronouncing judgment on them. So we see that God Almighty has authority over these lesser gods, and He states it plainly in verse 2: they have judged unjustly and shown partiality to the wicked. His commands to earthly rulers have never changed: defend the poor, aid the fatherless, rescue the widow. He commanded these in Deuteronomy (14:29; 24:17-19; 26:12) but had to continually command them through the prophets (Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 22:3).

God made humanity in His image and gave us authority over the earth. And while there have always been human rulers who take advantage of the poor and needy, we are called to be like God in our authority. Whether you have authority over a kingdom or a household, a company or a classroom, your challenge is the same as mine: defend the ones who have no defender. Jesus, the Word who became flesh (see John 1:14), asks us to love the lowliest. How do we stand up to that test?

**How do you help defend the poor, the fatherless, and the widow?**

## VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"'Up and be doing,' is the word that comes from God for each of us. Leave some 'good work' behind you that shall not be wholly lost when you have passed away. Do something worth living for, worth dying for."<sup>1</sup>

—Arthur P. Stanley (1815–1881)

# DAY 5

## READ:

**Hebrews 1**

## FOCAL PASSAGE:

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

## NOTES



### KEY DOCTRINE #48:

#### **JESUS'S DEITY**

Within the person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures—the divine nature and the human nature. Scripture teaches He is fully divine and fully human. His divinity is on display in passages that describe Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3). The New Testament also points to the deity of Christ by showing how He possesses attributes that God alone possesses (Micah 5:2; John 1:4), how He performs works that only God performs (Mark 2:5-12; John 10:28; 17:2), and how He Himself claims to be the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5).

When life gets full and busy, it's easy to forget that we live in a spiritual realm and in a spiritual kingdom with Christ as supreme.

I'm a homeschool mom right now, and it's easy to get caught up in all the homeschool mom things: Which math literature is best? What teaching style will help my child? How can I incorporate non-scholastic activities into our homeschool plan? Are my kids getting enough socialization? Too much socialization?

Sometimes I have too many things on my mind, but Hebrews 1 brings my attention back to Jesus.

There are seasons of life when our focus turns to other things: In December, we make sure we find the joy of family and friends. In the summer, we do our best to spend time eating outside and getting wet to escape the heat. In the fall, our attention goes to hiking and falling leaves and pumpkin spice lattes.

But Hebrews 1 would say, "Don't let your attention wander from the Son."

Jesus deserves our worship, our attention, and our praise. He is the heir of all things, He shines the glory of God, He is the very nature of God, and He maintains the universe. And while we live in this world and must function in it, we should never lose sight of the One who created all there is, keeps it all moving with His powerful word, walked into sacrificial death for His ungrateful creation, and sat down on the throne next to the Father.

**What can you do to turn your eyes to Jesus every single day?**

# GROUP

NOTES

**POINT 1: The Son's works reveal His deity**  
(John 10:22-28).

The Jews \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus about His identity, but they were not seeking understanding but rather a way to convict Him of \_\_\_\_\_.



**How can we be prepared for situations in which others are hostile toward us because of our faith?**

True believers obey and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as Lord, and with that comes \_\_\_\_\_ life and security.



From Day 1: **How can someone humble himself/herself to become a sheep of Jesus, a true believer?**

**POINT 2: The Son's claims reveal His deity**  
(John 10:30-39).

## **KEY DOCTRINE #48:** **JESUS'S DEITY**

Within the person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures—the \_\_\_\_\_ nature and the \_\_\_\_\_ nature. Scripture teaches He is fully divine and fully human. His divinity is on display in passages that describe Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3). The New Testament also points to the deity of Christ by showing how He possesses attributes that God alone possesses (Micah 5:2; John 1:4), how He performs works that only God performs (Mark 2:5-12; John 10:28; 17:2), and how He Himself claims to be the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5).

Jesus knew His \_\_\_\_\_ as God and \_\_\_\_\_ such, even at a risk to His life.

## **VOICES from** **CHURCH HISTORY**

"Christ either deceived mankind by conscious fraud, or He was Himself deluded and self-deceived, or He was Divine. There is no getting out of this trilemma. It is inexorable."<sup>2</sup>

—John Duncan (1786–1879)



When trials come because of your conviction as a child of God, how do you stand firm?

**POINT 3: The Son’s radiance reveals His deity** (Hebrews 1:1-3).

God the Father has given all \_\_\_\_\_ to God the \_\_\_\_\_ .



How should the truth of these verses shape your personal worship time?

\_\_\_\_\_, being in very nature God, controls all things, and only through Him and His saving work can we be \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.



Why do you think some people don’t believe that Jesus is God?

**MY RESPONSE**

Because Jesus is God, we live in full submission to Him, not only turning to Him in faith as our Savior but following Him in obedience as our Lord.

- **HEAD:** What attributes of Jesus’s deity comfort you the most, and why?
- **HEART:** How can you praise Jesus for His divine work in your life?
- **HANDS:** How is your life pointing others to Jesus, and thus to the Father?



Scan this QR code to access this session’s Scripture passages.

**VOICES from THE CHURCH**

“Looking at Christ is the way we see most fully the glory of God. . . . No human son is the exact representation of his father. There is a close relation, but not an exact representation. Christ, however, is an ‘exact representation.’ He and God are of the same divine essence.”<sup>3</sup>

–R. Albert Mohler Jr.