

**7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)****Lesson Plan:** Introduction (Day 2)**Grade:** Return Signed Syllabus; Electronic Syllabus; First Day “Quiz”**Learning Goal:** Students should be able to articulate the primary question guiding our study of the New Testament Gospels: “Who do you say that Jesus is?”**Question:** Who do YOU say that Jesus is?

Prayer.

Review Names.

Take up prophecy of the coming Christ; Take up signed Syllabus

Pass back responses from yesterday’s quiz.

Everybody get Bible, turn to Matthew 16:13-17. read aloud together.

What does Jesus first ask his disciples?

What is their answer?

What is the *real* question Jesus is getting at?

How do you answer that? Who do YOU say that Jesus is?

Listen to this quote from C.S. Lewis in his book *Mere Christianity*:

I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about [Jesus]: “I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

4 options for the identity of Jesus:

1. Liar - greatest deceiver the world has ever known
2. Lunatic - clever lunatic, 2000 years later still going on
3. Prophet because the New Testament is filled with untruths about Jesus claiming to be divine when he really wasn’t. Similarly, he might be called a great teacher of love and peace.

**3 Reasons that these cannot be true**

1. NT Gospels were written too early - difficult to lie about stuff when there are still witnesses around to refute you.
2. Content of the Gospels is too counter-productive for it to be a legend (made up) - family unsupportive, women discover Christ, disciples look like cowards and frequently don’t get it.
3. Content is too detailed to be made up (ex. Jesus on a cushion on the boat)

4. The Christ, the Son of God

## 8 Guiding Thoughts in New Testament Studies

1. The Life of Christ in the Gospels is the fulfillment of all the OT hopes and dreams and it is the source of all NT revelation and expectation.
2. To relive the pages of scripture recorded by the evangelist is to walk with the Lord in his life and ministry.
3. To study the life of Christ is to see God in human flesh. (See John 1:14-18)
4. When we study the Gospels we meet the REAL Jesus.
5. The Life of Christ confronts us with the personality, which forbids indecision and neutrality.
6. We learn of God's provision and pattern for our Christian experience. (1 Peter 2:21 - walk in His steps)
7. A person's attitude towards Christ determines for them.
8. To those of us who have been saved, we find Him to be the supreme love and desire of our souls.

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### Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- What are the 4 options for the Identity of Jesus?