

Greetings Shepherds,

What you do is so important to the lives of people. Because of your leadership, people are connected, rooted, and encouraged. They get connected to Jesus and His family, they get rooted in the truth, and they are encouraged to continue Jesus' mission of reaching a lost world. Awesome!!

As we continue this new season together, we hope to deepen our commitment to one another and the purpose for which we exist. I will soon be giving you some dates when we will get to meet with Todd and walk through who we are, why we exist, and how we keep Jesus at the center of all we do.

In the meantime, please pray for us, for Todd, and for our journey together. Jesus promised that as we do, He will "bear fruit that lasts."

#### SPECIAL PRAYER NEEDS

We have so many wonderful people in the Trinity family who are suffering from physical ailment and loss. Please pray for them and ask your team to hold them up.

Grace to you,  
Steve

## LEADERS NOTES

"I AM . . ." SERIES – Week 1

Week of **February 26, 2017**

### Share it

If we did 'on the street' interviews, what opinions would you hear about the identity of Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This could be quite a discussion. The opinions come from school, friends, news, etc. The purpose of this question is to lead into our series on the true identity of Jesus and what that means.

### Study the Word (the Bible)

Read John 8:21-47 and answer two questions:

What do we learn about the identity of Jesus Christ? (i.e. Who is he? What do we learn about Him?)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Yes, it is a long passage. The intention is to read it with the focus of these two questions. The purpose of this question is to dig into what Jesus said about His identity and purpose.

You will notice that there are multiple references to Jesus identity and person. Examples:

- "I am from above . . . I am not of this world" (v. 23);
- He was "sent" (v. 26);
- "I speak what the Father [i.e. God the Father] has taught me" (v. 28);
- "I always do what pleases him" implies that he is perfect;
- He claimed to speak truth that would set people free (v. 32) etc.

What do we learn about those who are his disciples / the people of God?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** The purpose of this question is to begin to identify the implications of Jesus identity and actions to people. The theme of our first week is "If you believe that Jesus is God, His words become authoritative in your life."

Examples of answers:

- I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe (v. 24)
- many put their faith in him (v. 30)
- If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples (v. 31)
- you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (v. 32)
- then you would do the things Abraham did (v. 39)
- If God were your Father, you would love me (v.42)
- Etc.

### Discuss Together

Why is the identity of Jesus so important? What implications come with it?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This will be a theme throughout the series. The purpose of this question is to BEGIN a discussion that will continue throughout the series.

Discuss this statement: "If you can't begin to believe that Jesus is God, then please don't propose that He was just a "great moral teacher."

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** The purpose of this question is to encourage people to reason well about His identity. This is both helpful for us to have clarity and help for us as we reach out to those considering the faith.

What do you feel and think when you read Jesus' statement in Matthew 7:21-23?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** As Todd Arnett quoted on Sunday, this statement from Jesus is "a dreadful warning." The purpose of this question is to help look deeper at who Jesus is and what He said. There are people in danger. We need to pray and be available to be influencers of the people in our world who don't yet know Christ.

Our theme statement is: "If you believe that Jesus is God, His words become authoritative in your life." What implications and applications come to mind?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Again, this question points to a theme that will run throughout the series. Allow people to share knowing that they are at different places of faith and maturity.

May our Lord empower you and your group as you seek to do life and mission together.  
Steve