

The Healing of the Blind Man at Bathsaida (Mark 5:22–26) by Julia Stankova, 2010, Bulgaria

LESSON ONE

Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture Gospel of Mark (Mark 1–8)

> Key Scripture Mark 8:27–33

Key Idea Jesus is not the messiah they expected, but he is indeed God's Son.



In My Father's House by Ric Darrell, 2014, United States

LESSON TWO

Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 5–7; 13)

Key Scripture Matthew 13:51–53

Key Idea Jesus is the long-awaited Jewish messiah whose teaching opens the kingdom of heaven to us here and now.

LESSON THREE



The Triumphal Entry by Sadao Watanabe, 1974, Japan

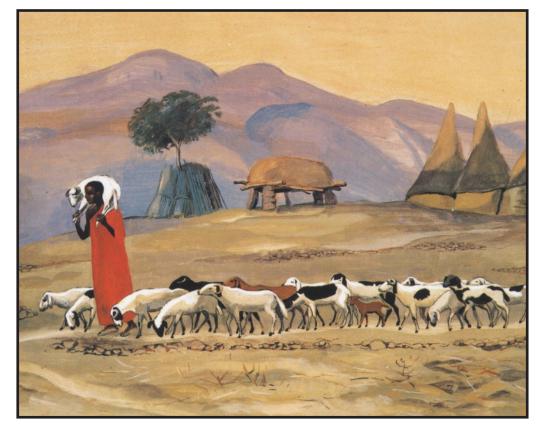
Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture Gospel of Luke (Luke 1–4; 14:12–24; 16:19–31)

Key Scripture Luke 4:16–21; Acts 2:22–24

Key Idea

Rejected by his own people, Jesus, prophet of God, turns the world upside down with his teachings.



The Good Shepherd by Bénédite de la Ronciére, 1973, Cameroon

LESSON FOUR

Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture Gospel of John (John 1; 9; 10)

Key Scripture John 9:1–7

Key Idea Jesus and God are one.

LESSON FIVE



The Death of Jesus by Nicholas T. Markell, 2014, United States

Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture 1 Corinthians 2:1–2; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Philippians 2:1–4; Acts 18

Key Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

Key Idea Paul stresses the centrality of the cross of Christ in understanding true discipleship.

LESSON SIX

Who Is Jesus According to

Background Scripture Book of Hebrews (Hebrews 1–6; 12–13)

Key Scripture Hebrews 12:1–2

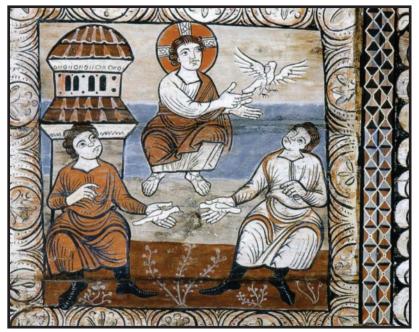
Key Idea

In the book of Hebrews, the author encourages believers to hold fast to their faith in times of adversity, to remain firm in their commitment to Jesus, who has run this race before us and now reigns in glory with God.



Because He Lives We Can Face Tomorrow by Ovide Joseph Bighetty, 2002, Canada

LESSON SEVEN



Jesus Gives Life to Birds, artist unknown, 1120, Church of St. Martin, Zillis, Switzerland

Who Is Jesus According to the Non-canonical

Background Scripture Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2

Key Scripture

See highlighted excerpts from the non-canonical Gospels within the lesson.

Key Idea

The four canonical Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are not the only Gospels written by early Christians. Other stories about Jesus circulated in the early centuries of Christianity, offering us stories of the "missing years" of Jesus and, more importantly, information about the diversity of early Christianity.

LESSON EIGHT

Who Is Jesus According to the Other

Background Scripture Genesis 12:1–4; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:6–7; 4:23–29

Key Scripture Galatians 4:23–29

Key Idea

The major Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) all share the patriarch Abraham in their traditions; these religions comprise the three major monotheistic religions in the world today. While Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, for Christianity alone, it is important to understand how Jesus is viewed in the other two religious traditions.



The Ascension of Christ, Seyyid Loqman Ashuri, 1583, Ottoman Empire, Turkey

LESSON NINE



En la Cena ecológica del Reino (The Ecological Supper of the Kin-dom) by Maximino Cerezo Barredo, 1980, Spain

Who Is Jesus According to Contemporary Cultural

Background Scripture Matthew 15:21–28; Luke 10:38–42

Key Scripture Matthew 15:21–28

Key Idea

Each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text; how we interpret depends in part on our own identity. Not only does the context and perspective of the writers of the New Testament determine the answer to the question "Who is Jesus?" so does the context and perspective of the reader/interpreter.