

For reflection and discussion

1. What is your opinion on the historicity of Jesus? Did he really live and die? And was he really raised from the dead? What do you think, and why do you think what you think?
2. Jesus asked his disciples “Who do people say I am?” What about you, who do you think Jesus was?
3. Do you agree with the options for the identity of Jesus suggested by C. S. Lewis, or can you think of another alternative or other alternatives?
4. If Jesus really was who he claimed to be, what difference should this make in your life? Has his identity made the difference in you that it should have?

The God Questions Series

April 15	Is the Bible true and can I trust what it says?
April 22	Why do you allow suffering?
April 29	Is Jesus really your Son?
May 6	Do all roads lead to you?
May 13	“Is the Bible true?” revisited!

Resources worth checking

Lee Strobel has authored a number of books that deal with these kinds of issues. His books include, *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*. You can find out more (and read articles and watch some video clips of him and others discussing these issues) at www.leestrobel.com

Another book worth checking is *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell.

A DVD resource that is helpful is *Jesus: Fact or Fiction?*
www.JesusFactOrFiction.com

God Questions: Is Jesus really your Son?

Pastor Alan Robinson, April 29, 2007
(God Questions, Part 3)

Matthew 16:13-16 (church Bible page 694)

1. Was Jesus really _____?
2. Was Jesus really _____?

1. The h_____ of Jesus

“Historically it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all, and I he did we do not know anything about him.”

Bertrand Russell in *Why I am not a Christian*, page 16

Some writers may toy with the fancy of a ‘Christ-myth,’ but they do not so on the ground of historical evidence. The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for an unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the ‘Christ-myth’ theories.”

F. F. Bruce, University of Manchester, England

A. S_____ sources in the historicity of Jesus

B. J _____ sources on the historicity of Jesus

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 mad man 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 up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”
C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 1952, pages 40-41)

A.

C. C _____ sources on the historicity of Jesus

B.

2. The d _____ of Jesus

“He (Jesus Christ) was a virtuous and amiable man. The morality that he preached and practiced was of the most benevolent kind; and though similar systems of morality had been preached by Confucius, and by some Greek philosophers, many years before; by the Quakers since; and by many good men in all ages, it has not been exceeded by any.”
John Paine, American revolutionary (he had contempt for Christianity)

C.

Introducing the “trilemma”

_____ or _____ or _____

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people say about Him: “I’m 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 was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else

What is your choice?