

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

***The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ***  
**Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5, 14; 10:30-38; John 20:28**  
**Philippians 2:5-12; Colossians 2:9; Revelation 5:1-14**

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

## Leaders' Responsibilities:

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## Prior to this Coming Session:

**Gathering Time Leader:**

**Bible Study Leader:**

Have a dictionary available for use during class.

Prepare statements for the game “Fact or Fiction”. You may have these on a large poster or may make copies on slips of paper to be passed out to the participants.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

Copy the scripture reading of Philippians 2: 5-11 for the three readers that you enlist ahead of time to close the sharing time. Ask the readers to practice together to make the reading as beautiful and meaningful as possible.

### **Music Sources:**

**“His Name is Wonderful”**, *Baptist Hymnal*, #203

**“Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know”**, *Baptist Hymnal*, #205

**“Blessed Be the Name”**, *Baptist Hymnal*, #206

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

**Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

## ***The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ***

### **Focal Text**

Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5,14; 10:30-38; 20:28; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; Revelations 5:1-4

### **Main Idea**

The Christ of the New Testament is not a man deified by his zealous disciples, but the eternal Son of God who voluntarily became man to redeem lost humanity.

### **Question to Explore**

Who is Jesus to you?

### **Teaching Aim**

To help the class state what the New Testament teaches about Jesus' deity and lordship being God, Saviour, and Lord of our lives.

### **First thoughts:**

#### **The Final Word**

What thoughts or memories or emotions are aroused when this question is asked: "Who is Jesus?" (Take time to let the group give brief responses).

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Answers included were: "John the Baptist", "Elijah", "Jeremiah", "one of the prophets". Then, Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" The answer determined the course of the disciples' lives. Our response to this question will reveal what we know about Jesus, or better yet, that we know him personally.

### **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Today, we will discover in Matthew, John, and Paul's writings the responses of these early followers of Jesus and what Jesus says about himself.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ*

#### **Focal Text**

Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5,14; 10:30-38; 20:28; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; Revelations 5:1-4

#### **Background Texts** (See explanation under “Introduction to your personal study”).

Psalm 2:7; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:25-30; 14:33; 16:13-16,27; 17:1-8; 27:1-28:6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 5:31-47; 10:30-39; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5,21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:1-6; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:18-23; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:21-22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 1 John 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelations 1:13-16; 5:1-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

#### **Main Idea**

The Christ of the New Testament is not a man deified by his zealous disciples, but the eternal Son of God who voluntarily became man to redeem lost humanity.

#### **Question to Explore**

Who is Jesus to you?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the class state what the New Testament teaches about Jesus’ deity and lordship

#### **Introduction to your personal study:**

You can see from the long list of scriptures in the “Background Texts” above that the Bible abundantly teaches the Deity and Lordship of Jesus of Nazareth. Moreover, those teachings come in a large number of verses scattered throughout much of the Bible.

Teaching any doctrinal statement means drawing from as much Biblical support as possible. However, **please don't be intimidated by all those references.** As you prepare to teach your home church this coming session, you will not want to go back and read them all. However, they are listed above for your support if persons in your church raise questions that your study this week cannot satisfactorily answer. Your church may wish to hold more in-depth studies of key beliefs at a time other than your regular weekly worship sessions. See the Resources menu in the Home Church Online webpage for suggestions regarding in-depth studies.

## **Background:**

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

As we study about the Lord God, we must come to an understanding that Jesus is Lord. It is interesting how we humans like others to respond to our authority, but we often deny Jesus that same honour. The Bible speaks very clearly about the Lordship of Jesus. The disciples saw the miracles, felt His Lordship in their lives, but were unable to believe completely in Jesus as Lord and Master. Is this not like so many of us? Have we not had our lives changed by the presence of God? Have we not felt the miracles that He performs in our life? But we question Jesus' Lordship and authority by our inaction.

## **Overview:**

The following study will explore a few verses that definitely point to Jesus as God's Son and our Lord. As the lesson draws to a close we must face the question that calls all of us to make a commitment to Jesus. Who is Jesus to you?

## **Focusing on the Meaning:**

### **Matthew 16:13-16 The Confession**

As we begin this lesson it is important that each person be able to describe themselves, their character, and their personality. Men and women often define themselves by their work, their home situation, and their family. Regardless who is present in the group, every person must be able to explain clearly who Jesus is to him or her. As Christians, we should describe ourselves as followers of Jesus.

The disciples were asked, “Who is Jesus?” From their reply it is clear that several were not one hundred per cent sure who Jesus was or what his agenda was.

©2001-2009, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. [www.homechurchonline.com](http://www.homechurchonline.com)  
*The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ – 05-14-06-en*

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

**Matthew 16:13** Jesus and the disciples were in the area of Caesarea Philippi. This city was known for its worship of different gods. The mystic god Pan, the god of nature, was worshiped here along with Baal and even Caesar. This location was also very important to the Jews since it was the headwaters of the Jordan River.

In this passage Jesus asks a simple question. His wording is very well chosen. Jesus starts off inquiring from the disciples who the people thought he was. It is important to note that Jesus calls himself the "... the Son of Man". This phrase was one often used by Jesus to describe himself. It did not have the same political connotation that 'Messiah' might have. Jesus' wording allows the disciples to answer freely.

**Matthew 16:14** The answers came quickly and suggest that the people had been discussing who Jesus was. The answers also indicate that the people had not listened to what Jesus had said. Some replied, "John the Baptist." This answer may have come from the fact that their messages were similar and in fact Herod Antipas thought Jesus was John. Another reply was "Elijah." This answer grew out of the understanding that Elijah would return just before the Messiah appeared. Other answers included "Jeremiah." This reply flowed from the similar fearless proclamation of their message in the face of opposition. Finally, others indicated that Jesus was just one of the prophets.

**Matthew 16:15** This verse finds Jesus asking the most important question of all. It is the same question you and I are faced with each and every day. Jesus' ministry is now at a turning point. He is about to head for Jerusalem and the cross, but before he does that, the main question must be answered. "Who do you say I am?"

**Matthew 16:16** Peter's answer was clear and straightforward. Peter declared Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Messiah can be translated 'the anointed one'- the one God has chosen to be the king. I pray that each reader will respond so quickly and clearly to this question.

There is so much more to say about this passage and the verses that follow. It is important that we understand that Peter's answer was given to him by the Holy Spirit. Members must understand that the Holy Spirit is available now, and in the future, to all persons who seek understanding and knowledge from God.

## **John 1:1-5, 14 The Beginning**

**John 1:1-2** John's gospel starts with creation. Each of the Gospels places Jesus in history in different ways. Matthew connected it to the king, while Luke drew a connection to the Roman rulers. John states clearly that Jesus existed before time even began by comparing Jesus to the "Word" or "logos". By the use of the word "Word" to represent Jesus, John has established several different points that strengthen Jesus' place. First, the opening words remind us of the opening words in Genesis. Second, to the Jews, the "Word" meant power and purpose, to the Greeks it meant principle, and to the Christian it meant proclamation. John is also following a tradition of



not naming the Supreme Being as was the tradition in the Old Testament. John does make it very clear that the Word was very closely and integrally connected to God.

**John 1:3-5** The passage connects Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God with the creation of the world. It is important to note that nothing in this world was created without “the Word’s” direction. Through the “Word” we have light and life. This seems an easy concept when you think of plants. But the concept applies to us also. We must have the light of the truth so that we can have life at all. God is the source of all light which exposes evil in our world. Jesus became that light in person. He points the way to God. We must have a relationship with Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. It is interesting that some people hear the gospel and still reject its hope. They are unable to understand that Jesus came to bring new life and light into this world.

**John 1:14** This verse makes it clear that the “Word” has been among us. We humans have visibly seen the radiance of God through Jesus Christ. He is God in the flesh. It is important to see that the “Word” is full of grace and truth. This passage connects two elements. First we have established that the “Word” was before all creation, and now we give the “Word” an earthly name, an earthly body and an earthly identity.

#### **John 10:30-38 “I am God’s Son!”**

**John 10:30** This one statement is very important for our salvation. If we believe all that we have read, it is imperative that we understand and believe in the close relationship that Jesus has with God. God and Jesus are inseparable. They are one and Jesus states it clearly here.

**John 10:31-32** As Jesus was about to be stoned, he asks the people to examine the evidence of the miracles. The lame walked, the blind saw, the dead were raised, and the multitudes were fed. He basically said to the people, ***“If I, as God, did not do these miraculous things, who do you think did?”***

**John 10:33** This is a good example of people wanting things to be the way they think things should be. These people wanted the miracles. Jesus was asking them to think for themselves now. He was asking them to comprehend that God performed the miracles. He was asking them to reason that if God did the miracles then the person doing the miracles must be God.

**John 10:34-38** These verses show two different arguments that Jesus used. First the people were upset that Jesus had called himself the Son of God. Here Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6 ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High’. He simply reminds the people that their own beliefs state that the Scripture cannot be changed and this is what is written in Scripture. The passage in Psalms refers to the importance of each person to God. God created each one of us. He made us in His image. We are His children. What the people who were listening to and watching Jesus could not grasp was the fact that Jesus is the unique Son of God. He was merely pointing out that their objection from scripture was flawed.

The second point Jesus makes is this: look at what you see. Does it bring glory to God? Jesus asks them to look at the physical evidence right before their eyes, and make a decision based on that. Once they examine the evidence they might understand that not only are he and God doing the same thing, they are the same—Father and Son.

### **John 20:28 The fence sitter**

**John 20:28** There may be some that read this study that are like Thomas. You have seen the miracles in people's lives. Jesus may have touched you. But you have never recognized Jesus as your divine master. Jesus states clearly that he does not want you to be a fence sitter. He wants you either hot or cold. Thomas got off the fence and declared the risen Lord as his Lord and his God. I urge you, if you are a fence sitter, to commit yourself to the lordship of Jesus and embrace the freedom that awaits you.

### **Philippians 2:5-11 Attitudes**

**Philippians 2:5-11** Attitude is the key to this passage. We are not to consider ourselves equal to God in any form. Many people speak as if God is the man upstairs or their buddy. He definitely is none of these. He is Holy God. Jesus is the supreme example of humility. He did not selfishly claim his status as God's Son. Instead, Jesus took on human appearance and conditions and felt human pain. He humbly submitted to God's will and gave up his earthly life for our sins. He died a horrible death on the cross so that we could be reconciled to God.

Because of Jesus' free submission to God's will, He was given a place of glory and honour above all. Every person will one day bow before Jesus and confess him as Lord. Even creatures long dead will call out the praises of Jesus to the glory of God the Father. Confessing who Jesus really is brings honour and recognition to the Father.

### **Colossians 2:9 Deity of Jesus**

**Colossians 2:9** Here Paul states beyond confusion, that Jesus is the perfect representation of God. Everything of God is expressed in Jesus. He is supreme and not just another god. As we invite Jesus into our lives, He comes in completely. As we submit to him, we grow in our understanding of his fullness in us.

### **Revelations 5:1-4 Supremacy of Christ**

**Revelations 5:1-4** No one or no thing exists on earth or in heaven that has the authority to grant eternal life except one – Jesus. He is God's sacrificial lamb, the only one who is worthy of our worship. Jesus is here described as the Lion of Judah, the Root of David. He is the only one able to open God's scroll and reveal the future. He is our only hope of salvation.

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

Often people develop an allegiance to a certain type of automobile. They think their particular model operates and looks far better than other vehicles. When they brag on their car, they cite all sorts of statistics and evidence to show just how great it performs. This glow of importance usually lasts only until something goes wrong with the vehicle or dealership. How opposite it is with Jesus! Jesus came quietly and cared for people. He healed them and taught them. Jesus did not need people to brag about his superiority. His deity evidenced itself. He died for our sins, not because He was forced to, but because He loved us and willingly submitted to the Father's plan. The supremacy of a leader shows in how far he will go for his people. Jesus went all the way. He came and lived as God in human flesh – the only answer to our problem of sin.

## **For Personal Reflection:**

- 1. What have I learned from this study?**
  
- 2. What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**
  
- 3. What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5,14; 10:30-38; 20:28; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; Revelations 5:1-4

#### **Background Texts** (See explanation under “Introduction to your personal study”).

Psalms 2:7; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:25-30; 14:33; 16:13-16,27; 17:1-8; 27:1-28:6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 5:31-47; 10:30-39; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5,21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:1-6; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:18-23; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:21-22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 1 John 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelations 1:13-16; 5:1-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

#### **Main Idea**

The Christ of the New Testament is not a man deified by his zealous disciples, but the eternal Son of God who voluntarily became man to redeem lost humanity.

#### **Questions to Explore**

Who is Jesus to you?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the class state what the New Testament teaches about Jesus' deity and lordship

### **Connect with Life:**

Play a game of '**Fact or Fiction?**' Discuss some statements about Jesus – drawn from a variety of sources – that may be either factual or false.

As these statements are discussed, draw out group members' personal perspectives on Jesus. (Some possible statements – He was born of a virgin. He was a prophet but not divine. He is the exact image of God. He created the world. As a child, He could turn stones into doves. Wise men visited the Christ child on the night of his birth. Jesus lived a sinless life, etc.)

### **Guide the Study:**

**(Note to the leader:)** Remember to include teens, older children, and seniors in reading the scripture passages aloud.

Question the group: "If someone were introducing you to a new acquaintance, how would they identify you?"(son, daughter, wife, doctor, etc.)

Have someone read Matthew 16:13-16.

Request someone look up in a dictionary and share the meaning of the word "messiah".

Seek opinions on this: "Why does Jesus describe himself as 'son of man'?"

Guide the group to understand how Peter was able to discern Christ's true identity.

Have a member read John 1:1-5,14.

Draw out responses about how the Trinity was involved in creation. Let the group see the word "**God**" in Genesis 1:1; the words "**Spirit of God**" in Genesis 1:2; the words "**Us**" and "**Our**" in Genesis 1:26; and the declaration of Jesus, "**The Word**", as creator of all in John 1:1-3.

Ask the group if they can think of other Bible references that speak of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in regard to God's creation of the heavens and the earth.

Continue: "How can we know that Christ is eternal?"

Have a group member read John 10:30-38.

Help your group to discover why the people were ready to stone Jesus.

Look for answers to this question: “What two arguments does Christ use to persuade the people of his deity”?

Ask: In John 20:28 what was Thomas’ declaration?

Have the group comment to discover if each one believes that he/she can honestly echo the words of Thomas.

Urge someone to read Philippians 2:5-11.

Promote a brief discussion on the passage to lead members to understand Christ’s servant role.

Have another person read Colossians 2:9.

Pose the question: “How much of God is available to us through Christ?”

### **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

After reading Revelation 5:1-4 aloud, praise and thank God that Christ has made the ultimate sacrifice and is able to grant forgiveness. Ask members to share their insights concerning the New Testament teachings about the deity of Christ.

**Important:** Be sure to draw a definite close to the Bible study so that the Worship Time leader has sufficient time to develop and share all that is needed to conclude the worship experience in the way God intends for your church this day.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### *The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ*

Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5, 14; 10:30-38; John 20:28  
Philippians 2:5-12; Colossians 2:9; Revelation 5:1-14

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments.** No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

#### Who Am I?

Have you ever played a group game called “Charades”?

You divide the group into two teams. One person on each team is given the name of a movie, book, person, or drama to act out. All kinds of restrictions, such as not speaking, are placed on the person to keep them from easily revealing the name of what they are portraying. His or her task is to get their team to guess the name in spite of the restrictions. If their team guesses wrong, the other team can make a point by guessing it. (Many variations of “Charades” are played around the world.)

If you were asked to portray the person of Jesus in a game of “Charades”, what clues would you act out so that your team could guess that you were acting the part of Jesus?

Would you use something silly that they might recognize? Could you act out something meaningful that they would realize that you must be “Jesus”?

More importantly, if you had been one of the disciples when Jesus asked them to identify himself as more than just the man called Jesus of Nazareth, how would you have come up with the correct answer as did Peter?

Most importantly, would you have failed the test as did the other disciples? What made the difference?

# 3

Copy this section for the Worship Time leader.

## Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

### *The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ*

Matthew 16:13-16; John 1:1-5, 14; 10:30-38; John 20:28  
Philippians 2:5-12; Colossians 2:9; Revelation 5:1-14

#### **Beginning the Service:**

Sing hymns that portray Jesus as the Divine King and Lord of Lords.

#### **Offering:**

#### **Praying for the World:**

Find and read a missionary story about a group of people who at one time were knowledgeable about Jesus, but now know very little. The people of the area that used to be called Burma would be a good example. Parts of China would be another. Egypt would also be included.

#### **Sharing Guide:**

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

## **GOD'S FINAL WORD**

John 1: 1-5, 12-14

#### **Introduction:**

Who is Jesus - a picture on the wall, a character in the Bible, a great prophet who lived in ancient times? In our sharing time we have already given some answers. Our Bible

©2001-2009, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. [www.homechurchonline.com](http://www.homechurchonline.com)

16

*The Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ* – 05-14-06-en

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.



study has provided us with several passages that show the connection between Jesus and God.

How do we know who God is? It would be impossible to know unless he wanted to be known. All religions are an attempt by humanity to discover and worship a god or gods. Christianity is based upon divine revelation. God wants us to know him. The Bible is the record of God taking the initiative in revealing himself to humanity. And Jesus is the final word, the full expression of who God is! (Read Hebrews 1: 1-3).

The first chapter of the gospel of John tells us some remarkable truths about the Word of God!

### **THE WORD DESCRIBED – John 1: 1-3**

#### **1. The Word is eternal. He is timeless. (John 1:1)**

“In the beginning”, when the universe was created, the Word was already there. Jesus, in the Upper Room prior to his crucifixion, prayed, “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began”.

#### **2. The Word is the agent of creation. (John 1:3)**

In the record of creation in the first chapter of Genesis we read, “God said...and it was so”. The “Word” in the Old Testament denoted “God in action”. Psalm 33:6 states: “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made...”. In John 1:3, “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (Read Colossians 1: 16-17).

#### **3. The Word and God are one and yet distinct. (John 1: 1-2)**

“The Word was with God”, that is, “face to face with God” (v. 1) “He was with God in the beginning” (v. 2). Jesus said, “I and the Father are one”. The Bible teaches that there is only one God who expresses himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### **4. In fact, the Word is God. “...and the Word was God”! (John 1:1)**

Thus, Word is described as being eternal, the agent of creation, equal with God, and being God, himself. But the most remarkable truth of all is that *the Word became flesh!*”

### **WHAT THE WORD BECAME – John 1: 14**

“The Word became flesh”! The first century Jew would have no problem with the Word being God. The Word in the Old Testament was used to describe God in action. It also referred to “Wisdom” in Psalms and Proverbs. To read “the Word became flesh” would be unbelievable!

John does not say that the Word took a “body” or “became human”. He used the word “flesh” to state, in emphatic terms, that the Word became a human, physical life! (Read Philippians 2: 5-9)

Jesus took upon himself our human nature minus sin. The Word became what he had not been before and, therefore, will always be identified with humanity in the person of Jesus. His coming shows how valuable human life is and how God values each of us as worthy of being rescued from the bondage of sin.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” This could be translated, “he pitched his tent” or “he tabernacled” among us. This is the language used in the Old Testament describing God’s presence in the tabernacle which was situated in the center of the camp surrounded by the tribes of Israel during their Wilderness wanderings. John writes that God’s presence is not in a tent but in the person of Jesus.

Thus, Jesus is Emmanuel, “God with us”. Jesus is central to any thought about God. He is not “one among many” but the **“One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”**.

***This is Who Jesus Is – He is God and He is Man.***

So what is our response to this final word of God? John describes the two responses that are possible.

### **ACCEPTING OR REJECTING THE WORD – John 1: 10-13**

Why did God who is timeless, at a point in time, come into the world he created? Why did his light penetrate the darkness?

He came in order that we might have a new relationship – to become the children of God. John describes the greatest tragedy. The world-at-large did not know him and those who had every advantage for knowing him rejected him!

John normally uses the word “world” to describe the culture in which people live. Such culture is in sinful rebellion against God. John 3:16 states, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

In Jesus “was life and that life was the light of men” (John 1: 4). All humanity has the opportunity to know him but only those who choose to receive him have spiritual life. Those who do not will perish. They remain captive to their own sinful nature.

We become the children of God by receiving him and believing in his name. People in their natural state are not fit to be a part of God’s family. No physical process, biological urge, or legal union can bring about this new status. We cannot become what we

already are, rebellious sinners. There has to be a change of nature and this is made possible only by being “born of God”.

The early disciples were slow in comprehending who Jesus was. Although Simon Peter declared him to be “the Christ, the Son of the living God”, he later denied he even knew him. Thomas did not believe, even though his fellow disciples had seen the resurrected Christ. Only when he saw the risen Lord did he exclaim, “My Lord and my God”!

God’s final revelation of himself, his final word, is Jesus. You and I have the opportunity of telling others about this loving God who gave his Son to die on the cross to pay for our sins. He rose from the dead, ascended back to his glory, and sent his Holy Spirit to live in the lives of those who trust him. To those who accept him, he is both Saviour and Lord.

### **Call to Commitment:**

God gives us the power of choice. We can turn our backs upon him or we can choose to make him the center of our lives. When we trust him, he forgives us of sin and comes to live in us by his Spirit. He “pitches his tent” in our lives. Being a Christian means that something supernatural has happened to us. We have been “born of God”.

As Christians, we agree with the Apostle Paul: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”. (Philippians 1:21)

May we continue to get to know Jesus better. His life on earth was lived as God originally intended human life to be lived. May we renew our commitment to him being Lord of our lives. He enables us to live in the way that pleases God.

### **Concluding the Service:**

Have three children, teens or a child, a teen and an adult read the following passage as closure and benediction.

Philippians 2: 5-11

*Reader 1*

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

*Reader 2*

Who, being in very nature God,  
Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

*Reader 3*

But, made himself nothing,  
Taking the very nature of a servant,  
Being made in human likeness.

*Reader 2*

And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself  
And became obedient to death –  
Even death on a cross!

*Reader 3*

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
And gave him the name that is above every name,

*Reader 1*

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,

*Reader 3*

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
To the glory of God the Father.

## Philippians 2: 5-11

*Reader 1*

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

*Reader 2*

Who, being in very nature God,  
Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

*Reader 3*

But, made himself nothing,  
Taking the very nature of a servant,  
Being made in human likeness.

*Reader 2*

And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself  
And became obedient to death –  
Even death on a cross!

*Reader 3*

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
And gave him the name that is above every name,

*Reader 1*

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,

*Reader 3*

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
To the glory of God the Father.