

# Small Group Guide

Week of June 23, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Who Is Jesus?



## Icebreaker



- Share a story about a time when you were unable to spot a counterfeit or were fooled by something that wasn't genuine.
- Would you rather accidentally spend a \$100 counterfeit bill and have the authorities called on you, or unknowingly deposit \$5,000 in counterfeit cash at the bank and have the money confiscated?



## Discussion



- What stuck out to you from the story of Pastor Mark working as a bank teller and knowing the difference between real and counterfeit cash?
- Why do you think there are so many different beliefs and perspectives about who Jesus is?
- What has shaped your personal understanding of who Jesus is?
- Have you ever had an encounter with someone where you realized there was a major disconnect in your understanding and the other person's understanding of who Jesus is? How did you handle that conversation?
- We were given several reasons for believing in the resurrection of Jesus; Multiple Independent Accounts, Inconvenient Truths, Skeptics Turned Believers, Transformation of Disciples.
  - Which one resonates most with you?
  - Are there other reasons you would add?
- Do you ever struggle with feeling like the truth of Jesus offends others or goes against cultural norms? How can we speak this truth in love while still being bold?



## Thought for the Group



We learn some critical truths about Jesus' identity straight from His own words in the Bible. Jesus made some exclusive and controversial claims, stating "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). This idea of Jesus being the only way to have a relationship with God can be offensive in our culture today. Many religions and philosophies present a counterfeit version of Jesus - denying His deity, rejecting His resurrection, or making Him out to be less than the Savior He claimed to be.

But, we're reminded that as we spend enough time with the genuine truth about Jesus as revealed in Scripture, we cannot be fooled by cheap imitations. Just like handling real cash trains you to spot counterfeit bills, immersing yourself in who Jesus truly is according to the Bible protects you from deception.

The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is overwhelming - from the multiple eyewitness accounts to the transformed lives of the disciples who were willing to die proclaiming this truth. Jesus wasn't just a good teacher - He was and is the eternal Son of God who died for our sins and defeated death itself!

When we embrace Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, it doesn't make us superior - it compels us to compassionately share this life-changing reality with others who are trapped in lifeless counterfeits. We're called to be inviters, not excluders, opening the doors wide for all people to come home to the truth found in Christ alone.



## Next Steps



- Develop a consistent habit of reading and studying the gospels (Matthews, Mark, Luke, John) to know Jesus' character. The YouVersion Bible app has several reading plans.
- Place yourself in a situation that will stretch your faith; fielding spiritual conversations at work, volunteering somewhere, stepping up to serve or lead in a new way, sharing your testimony publicly, etc.