



THE FINAL WEEK

INTRODUCTION

The Final Week—Part 2

During the Easter season, we focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus, but often overlook the time leading up to his arrest.

Was Jesus a victim of a cruel scheme or did he orchestrate those events to bring about God's eternal plan? We are launching the new series, *The Final Week*. Let's explore how the days leading up to the trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus were all part of God's eternal plan to save the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do most people think Jesus was (and is)? What sets Jesus apart from other religious leaders?
2. Read Luke 20:1-8. Why was the ministry of John the Baptist so important? Why do you think the religious leaders were unwilling to acknowledge John's ministry?
3. Read Luke 20:9-19. What do the various parts of Jesus's story represent? What do you think Jesus's main point was in telling this parable?
4. Read John 3:16, Matthew 3:16-17, and Matthew 17:1-6. What difference does it make that Jesus was (and is) the Son of God?
5. Read John 1:12-14 and Ephesians 1:5-6. How is calling Jesus "the Son of God" different than calling believers, "children of God?"
6. Read John 1:1-14. Why do you think people sometimes struggle with the idea that Jesus was God? Why is the deity of Christ essential to our salvation? How personally has Jesus helped you?
7. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

Who really was and is Jesus? Why does it matter? Jesus was questioned time and time again. Religious leaders dared to ask Him, "Who do you think you are?" Jesus made remarkable claims regarding Himself, and because those claims were true, we all need Jesus.

Jesus claimed to be the one and only Son, which can be translated to one of a kind, incomparable, and only begotten. He was unlike any other. This matters because if Jesus weren't God, He wouldn't be able to be our Savior. The fact that He was sinless meant that He was qualified to die for your sins. He could pay the debt we owe. He alone was qualified to save us. He was able to tell His disciples "I will never leave you nor forsake you" and "I will be with you to the end of age." The Spirit is always with you and is present everywhere. Jesus is God, and He is able to help us navigate life because of who He is.

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

Luke 20:1-19
Matthew 21:10-11, 41
Matthew 17:1-6
Matthew 3:16-17
John 3:16
John 1:1-14
Ephesians 1:5-6