

Jesus fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies. He matched the fingerprint God had provided so that people could know when the Savior had arrived.

Jesus was real. He was really born to a real mother in a real place. He really grew up and lived a real life. Jesus isn't a myth or a fairytale. Jesus was a real person.

And Jesus really died—not as a very old person, dying a natural death. One of the most important ways we can think of and understand Jesus is as "the Lamb of God" who gave his life for our sins.

But Jesus didn't stay dead, and that means something. It gives us a REALLY important answer to the

"Who is Jesus?" question. Listen to what the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:1-4:

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his <u>prophets</u> in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the <u>Son</u> of <u>God</u> in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the <u>dead</u>, Jesus Christ our Lord...



Who is Jesus? He's the Son of God. How do we know? He died, he was buried, and "he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15:1-4). What does that mean? Jesus has all <u>authority</u>. Listen to what he said after his resurrection in <u>Matthew 28:18-20</u>:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <u>Go</u> therefore and make <u>disciples</u> of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have <u>commanded</u> you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

And that's what the earliest disciples did. They carried the good news—Jesus lived among us, Jesus died for our sins, Jesus was raised from the dead, and that's how we know he's the Son of God—everywhere they went. Acts 24:24 is a great example. As the apostle Paul stood before a governor named Felix, he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus, and he reasoned with Felix about:

- righteousness what is <u>right</u>
- self-control how to <u>behave</u>
- the coming judgment Jesus is going to come <u>again</u>

Jesus is the Son of Man, the Lamb of God, and the Son of God. He proved it by coming out of the grave!

For Class & Family Discussion:

- We heard Paul describe himself as "a servant of Christ Jesus" in Romans 1:1. He wrote in 1:4 that Jesus "was declared to be the Son of God in power…by his resurrection from the dead." Why does it matter whether or not Jesus rose from the dead? If the whole thing was just made up… what difference would that make? But if Jesus really *did* come out of the grave… what does that mean and why does it matter?
- Let's open our Bibles back to 1 Corinthians 15 and read verses 3 and 4 together. Why do you think Paul would describe this as "of first importance"?
- What does Paul mean when he says that Jesus did these things "in accordance with the Scriptures" (15:3-4)?
- In 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, Paul describes a variety of times that Jesus appeared to people after his resurrection. What stands out to you from those descriptions? What can we learn?
- In Matthew 16:13-18, Peter made a confession about Jesus being the Son of God even before his resurrection from the dead. What can we learn from that passage?
- Let's reread Matthew 28:18-20 together. What did Jesus mean? How do his words in that passage still apply to us today? How does someone become one of his disciples?
- Finally, Acts 24:24 gave us a good example of what it looks like to share with others about faith in Christ Jesus. Why do we all still need to learn about these three things?
 - ♦ righteousness —
 - self-control –
 - ♦ the coming judgment –