

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK NINE: JESUS & THE FATHER

### READING

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, YOU CAN READ THE UNDERLINED PORTIONS ONLY

16 So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. 17 But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” 18 So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God. 19 So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. 21 For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. 22 In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, 23 so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him. 24 “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. John 5 (NLT)

### TEACHING

Last week we read a story about Jesus healing a man who had been sick and unable to move for 38 years. The religious leaders were convinced that Jesus had broken one of their rules in healing the man and instructing him to carry his mat. In this week’s passage, we read Jesus’ response to those angry men. His response definitely did not calm the leaders—it actually made them angrier! They were angry that Jesus called God his Father, implying that he was equal with God. They thought that was a terrible sin called blasphemy; they didn’t realize Jesus was God’s son.

Jesus goes on to explain his relationship with the Father and we learn three important truths:

- 1) Jesus always obeyed the Father.** Jesus did nothing on his own, he completely and joyfully surrendered his will to the Father. He did this perfectly in our place because we don’t always obey and he also did this as our example, showing us how to surrender.
- 2) Jesus and the Father love and know each other.** Jesus and his Father perfectly love each other. This amazing relationship of love and trust is one that we get to join and enjoy! Later in the gospel of John, Jesus prays that we would all be one just as he and the Father are one. (John 17)
- 3) Jesus and the Father work together.** The Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) have the same heart and mind. Together they share and carry out the plan to rescue humanity and restore creation. We should be so grateful for that plan!

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## RESPONSE

### OPENING QUESTION(S):

- What qualities make for a good father? (or mother/grandfather/grandmother)

### TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who did Jesus say was his father?
- What is one thing you learned today about Jesus and the Father?

### CHILDREN:

- Who did Jesus say was his father?
- How did the religious leaders respond? Why?
- What is one thing you learned today about Jesus and the Father?

### TEENAGERS:

- What is one thing you learned today about Jesus and the Father?
- How did Jesus obey the Father?
- Why should we be grateful that the Trinity work together?

### ADULTS:

- Why is Jesus' obedience to the Father so important for you and me?
- In what ways can you—as a child of God—love and know him better? What can you do to join in his work in the world around you?

## PRAYER

*God, Thank you for being a good Father. You are a good Father to Jesus your son and you are a good Father to me. Thank you that I can become your child because I believe in Jesus—who he is and what he has done. Thank you that I am not your enemy, but I am your son or daughter. Thank you that you have welcomed me into your home and into your family. Help me to live out my new identity as your child. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

This story addresses one of the main objections to the validity of Christianity. Many people agree that Jesus was a good man who came to teach important truths, but they insist it was his followers that made him out to be God. He never actually claimed to be God. This story stands in clear contrast to that belief. The Jewish leaders knew exactly what Jesus was claiming here and it's the reason they ended up killing Jesus. Nice men and good teachers don't get murdered by the established powers. Only threats to the power could be in danger of that. And Jesus was a threat—not just because of his popularity and influence, but because He repeatedly claimed to be equal with God the Father. Jesus claims were radical, his life backed them up and his influence is seen to this day all over the world.