

WHO IS JESUS? JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE | DECEMBER 9, 2018

INTRODUCTION

This is a season most of us love - lights, cookies, decorations, traditions, festivities, family. Christmas is now several months long; in 2013, the United States' retail industry generated over \$3 trillion during the holidays. For the next three weeks, in the midst of the hustle and bustle, we are going to look at Colossians 1:15-20 and answer the question "Who is Jesus?" to help us re-discover the significance of Christmas.

SCRIPTURE

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:15-16

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. If you could ask Jesus ONE question about Himself, what would it be?
2. Read Colossians 1:15-20. What stuck out to you the most in this passage?
3. Why is it significant that Paul uses the term "*image*" to describe Jesus? (See Exodus 20:4, Hebrews 1:3, and John 1:18.)
4. What does it mean to be "*the firstborn over all creation*"?
5. Read the following passages. What do they tell you about Jesus' relationship to creation?

Genesis 1:1, 26

John 1:1-3, 14

1 Corinthians 8:6

6. What "*invisible*" things has He created?

7. What are the “*thrones*”, “*powers*”, “*rulers*” and “*authorities*”?
8. Since “*all things have been created through Him and for Him*”, this means that He created you for Himself. How does that make you feel?

APPLICATION

Each day this week, read through Colossians 1:15-16. Think of how Jesus is described in these verses, and then meditate on the incredible humility of His birth. Spend time in prayer thanking Him for being Emmanuel (God with us).

FOR FURTHER STUDY

In Colossians 1:15-16, Jesus is called “*Image*”, “*Firstborn*”, and “*Creator*”. Read the following passages and list the other names of Jesus. Which of these names are most meaningful to you?

Isaiah 7:14	
Isaiah 9:6	
Luke 2:11	
John 1:1	
John 1:29	
John 1:41	
John 6:35	
John 8:12	
John 8:58	
John 10:9	
John 10:11	
John 11:25	
John 14:6	