**“For The Win” – Week 2 (Reveals Who He Is)**

**March 17/18, 2018**

Let’s jump into Week 2 of our For The Win series by looking at the 2nd “win” of Jesus’ life. Last week, we talked about how Jesus does the impossible…he performed seemingly impossible miracles and he can also help us in the seemingly impossible problems or challenges in our life!

Today, we’re going to talk about Jesus’ most important quality; what separated him from anyone else in history. In fact, if I were to ask random people who they thought Jesus was, what do you think people would say? In fact, just think about that question and say out loud some of the answers people might say **(Leaders Note: Collect a few quick responses from the students. If you have a dry erase board on an easel, it might be useful to write down the words as the students say them and then leave them up as a visual.)**

There are a lot of opinions about Jesus…he was a teacher, he was a good person, he was a prophet, he helped people find God…but as Christians, the reason he is so important is because we believe that he is the Son of God. In fact, we believe that he is actually God in human form! That’s a pretty big claim because not everyone claims to be God!

**That’s our THP for today! THP: Jesus reveals who He is.**

How many of you are familiar with the Chronicles of Narnia series? Have you read any of the books or seen any of the movies? In the first book, “The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe,” the people of Narnia were being mistreated by the White Witch and they believed Aslan, a lion, would come and save them. In fact, there was a prophecy that said that Aslan would reach the Stone Table, this really big rock structure, and once he did that, the Queen would be destroyed and Narnia would be freed. Instead, the Queen kills Aslan on the Stone Table and the people are devastated. They started to second-guess whether Aslan really was who he and other people said he was.

Spoiler alert (ha!): Aslan ends up coming back from the dead, frees the people of Narnia from the Witch, and they finally realize Aslan is the true King. If you’re familiar with the Bible, you’ll probably notice some similarities between Aslan and Jesus. It wasn’t until Jesus was raised from the dead…or is resurrected…that people finally realized that he really was God. However, I think there are also some other ways that Jesus reveals who He is to us and that’s what we’re going to look at today.

How many of you have ever been in a classroom setting and the subject of religion comes up? Sometimes it can be a little uncomfortable because not everyone agrees about that kind of stuff. Some people believe in God, some people don’t…some people are Christians, some people are Muslims, some people are Hindus, and others are against any form of religion. There are lots of different opinions! Well, that was very similar to when Jesus was alive.

However, Jesus started to do some things that people thought only God could have done. People had heard tons of stories of miraculous things happening to the Hebrew people that only God could have done. How is it possible now that Jesus could do these things? Things like walking on water, healing people of blindness or diseases, calming a thunderstorm, telling people that he forgave their sins. Who WAS this Jesus guy?

In the very first chapter of the book of John, it says this (John 1:1-5): *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

In the original Greek language, the word *logos* is used for “Word.” Here’s why that’s important: people in that time used that word *logos* quite a bit and it usually was brought up in conversations where people asked questions like, “What’s the meaning of life?” or “Why am I here?” or “Who or what made the universe?” or “What is the truth?”

**John is saying that the *logos* or truth/meaning of life isn’t just a religion or idea or philosophy…it’s a PERSON! A person named Jesus! HE is the reason why we are all here. He is the one who created the universe AND you and me! That was a big statement to make because he is essentially saying that Jesus is God!**

**Christianity doesn’t just give us a watertight set of arguments to try and convince people of its truth. Instead, Christianity gives us a watertight PERSON: Jesus!**

Who do you think Jesus is? What does he mean for your life? Jesus himself asked that very question to one of his disciples, Peter, in Mark 8:29: *“But what about you [Peter]?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”* Peter finally believed that Jesus was the Son of God. His life had been completely transformed by Jesus…not just because he “believed in him”…he took what he said into his heart and committed his whole life to following him. Did he always get it right? Nope! However, even after his mistakes, he never gave up and kept serving Jesus.

**I want to ask that same question to you today: who is Jesus to you? Is he someone that has changed your life or is he just someone in the Bible? Is he someone you obey and try to live your whole life for…or is he someone you just talk about every once in a while at church? In our group discussions today, we’re going to talk about who Jesus is to us. I really want you guys to open up and be honest about how you see Jesus and what he actually means in your life.**

John 14:6 tells us that Jesus said: *“ I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* Jesus really was God in human form and if that’s true (and I believe it is!) that he is the only way to God, then I want to be a part of that, don’t you? God is so awesome and He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to show us that. I hope you can grow closer to Him today as a result of this message and as we do our group discussions together. Let’s pray!