

# City Nights

YOUTH.

## DATE

August 5th, 2026

## SERIES

Who Is Jesus: Week One

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the fulfilled promise, so we can trust God's Word.

### SCRIPTURE:

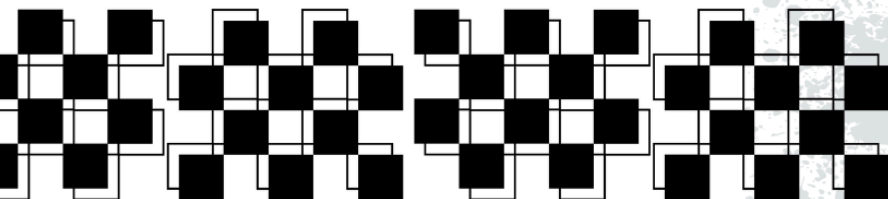
- Micah 5:2
- Isaiah 53:3-5
- Genesis 3:15
- Matthew 1:1-17
- Luke 24:25-27

### GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that Jesus isn't a myth, a fable, or a random good man—He is the fulfillment of a story God was telling for thousands of years.

### THINK ABOUT THIS:

Keep in mind that many people, students included, view the Bible as a disjointed collection of random stories rather than one, connected narrative. High schoolers might wrestle with skepticism about historical reliability, while junior highers might simply struggle to stay engaged with the Old Testament. Emphasize the "aha!" moment of prophecy fulfilled—showing students that God's plan was intentional from the very beginning. The main goal this week isn't just delivering history facts, but helping students feel confident that the Bible is historically grounded, trustworthy, and entirely centered on Jesus.



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## DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

### HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

### DISCUSS THIS

#### LEVEL 1:

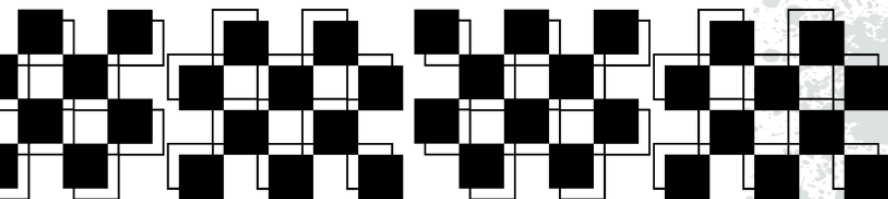
1. If you could travel back in time to watch any event in Jesus' life firsthand, which one would you pick and why?
2. Looking at the story of the Bible as one giant narrative, what is one thing that surprises or interests you about how God planned out Jesus' life in advance?

#### LEVEL 2:

3. We read Old Testament prophecies in Micah and Isaiah that came true in Jesus. (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53:3-5) How does seeing the Bible fit together like a puzzle help you trust that God's promises for your life are real?
4. Why do you think it matters whether Jesus was a real, historical person vs. just a fictional character in a story with a good moral lesson?

#### LEVEL 3:

5. Read Luke 24:25–27. Jesus taught that the entire Old Testament points to Him. How should knowing that Jesus is the main character of the whole Bible change the way you personally read, study, and apply scriptures in the Bible?



# City Nights

Youth.

## DATE

August 12th, 2026

## SERIES

Who Is Jesus: Week Two

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the sympathetic Savior, so we can bring Him our struggles.

### SCRIPTURE:

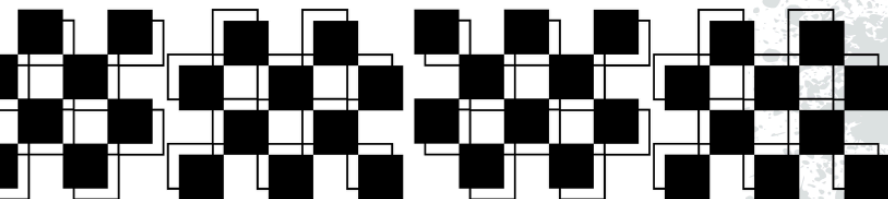
- Hebrews 4:14–16
- John 11:33-35
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Philippians 2:6-8

### GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that Jesus experienced everything it means to be human—temptation, tiredness, and sadness—yet without sin. Therefore, He can truly understand us.

### THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week is a prime opportunity to build emotional trust within your group. Middle and high school students often deal with intense social pressure, anxiety, temptation, and feelings of isolation; they frequently assume God is disappointed in them when they struggle. Try to focus on creating a safe, non-judgmental space where students can share real struggles, reminding them that Jesus experienced human exhaustion, grief, and temptation firsthand. Steer the conversation away from "try harder not to sin" and point students toward Jesus as an empathetic friend and advocate who truly gets what they are going through.



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## DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

### HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

### DISCUSS THIS

#### LEVEL 1:

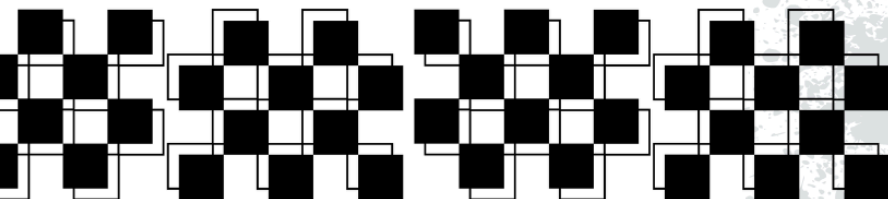
1. What is one situation at school or at home where you find it really hard to stay patient or keep your cool?
2. Knowing that Jesus was a real teenager and young adult who got tired, hungry, and stressed, how does that change the way you picture Him?

#### LEVEL 2:

3. Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin. What is the difference between being tempted and sinning, and why is that an important distinction when you feel guilty?
4. When you're going through a tough time (like grief, rejection, or anxiety), is your first instinct to run to God or hide from Him? How does knowing Jesus wept (John 11:35) help you bring those feelings to Him?

#### LEVEL 3:

5. In Philippians 2:6–8, it says Jesus "emptied Himself" by choosing to experience human weakness and suffering out of love for us. How can you follow His example this week by sacrificing your own comfort or status to serve someone else?



# City Nights

YOUTH.

## DATE

August 19th, 2026

## SERIES

Who Is Jesus: Week Three

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the sovereign Lord, so we can surrender our lives.

### SCRIPTURE:

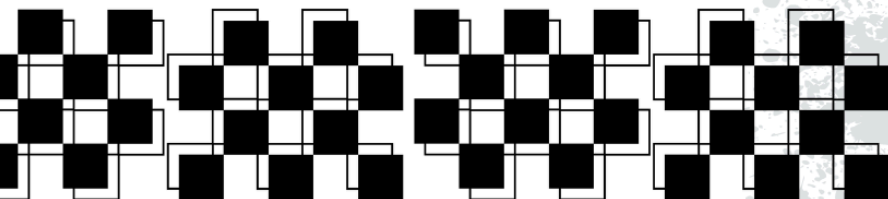
- Colossians 1:15–20
- John 1:1-3;14
- John 8:57-58
- Mark 4:39-41

### GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that Jesus isn't just a good teacher or a great moral guide—He is God in human flesh, possessing ultimate authority over creation, sin, and death.

### THINK ABOUT THIS:

In a culture that tells students "all beliefs are equally valid" and views Jesus merely as a gentle, non-threatening moral teacher, His claims of divinity can feel confrontational or confusing. This week, prepare for honest doubts and big questions—especially from older students who may ask, "What about other religions?" or "How do we know He really rose from the dead?" Don't feel pressured to have every exact answer, but rather validate good questions and lean into the weight of who Jesus claimed to be in the Bible by seeking the answers together. The focus should be helping students move from seeing Jesus as just a cool figure in history to recognizing Him as King and Lord of their lives.



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## DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

### HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

### DISCUSS THIS

#### LEVEL 1:

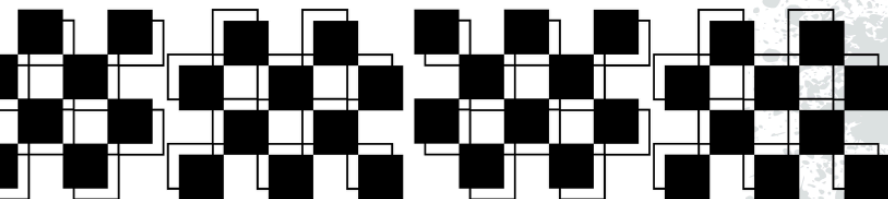
1. If you asked five random people at your school "Who is Jesus?", what kinds of different answers do you think you would hear?
2. When Jesus calmed the storm in Mark 4, the disciples were amazed by His power over nature. What is one area in your life right now where things feel out of control and you need Jesus to bring peace?

#### LEVEL 2:

3. C.S. Lewis famously pointed out that because Jesus claimed to be God, He can't just be "a good moral teacher" —He is either lying, crazy, or actually God. Why is it impossible to stay neutral about who Jesus is?
4. In John 8:58, Jesus calls Himself "I AM" (the name God gave Moses at the burning bush). Why were the religious leaders so shocked by this, and what does His identity mean for our lives today?

#### LEVEL 3:

5. Colossians 1:17 says that in Jesus "all things hold together." When your personal faith faces doubts or intellectual challenges from culture, how does His supreme authority over creation anchor your beliefs?



# City Nights

YOUTH.

## DATE

August 26th, 2026

## SERIES

Who Is Jesus: Week Four

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the only true Leader, so we can follow His calling.

### SCRIPTURE:

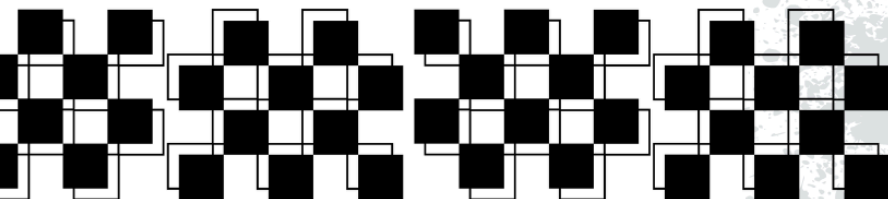
- Matthew 16:24–26
- John 15:4–5
- Matthew 28:18–20
- Luke 9:57–62

### GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that knowing who Jesus is demands a response. Following Him means surrendering our lives and reflecting His love to the world.

### THINK ABOUT THIS:

It's easy for students to give the right Sunday school answers without letting truth transform their actual daily routines. This week, lean into guiding the conversation away from abstract theology toward concrete, real-life application: asking what following Jesus looks like at school, on social media, with family, and in friendships. Junior highers will need very practical, bite-sized examples of spiritual habits (like starting a 5-minute prayer habit), while high schoolers will benefit from wrestling with the real cost of discipleship, such as peer pressure or standing up for their faith. Focus on inspiring action rooted in love rather than fueling guilt or legalism.





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## DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

### HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

### DISCUSS THIS

#### LEVEL 1:

1. What is one habit or routine in your daily life that you would find really hard to give up or pause for a week?
2. In your own words, what does it mean to "follow" someone on social media versus what it means to "follow" Jesus in real life?

#### LEVEL 2:

3. Jesus said in Matthew 16:24 to "deny yourself and take up your cross." What is one practical area in your life today where choosing to follow Jesus costs something (like popularity, time, or choices)?
4. Read John 15:4–5 about the Vine and the Branches. Why is trying to be a good Christian in your own strength guaranteed to burn you out, and what does abiding in Jesus look like practically on any given morning?

#### LEVEL 3:

5. Discipleship isn't just about our personal walk with God, it's also about making other disciples (Matthew 28:19). Who is one person in your sphere of influence (a friend, teammate, or family member) that God might be inviting you to invest in spiritually this semester?

