

## Does it matter?

### Read John 20.31

15. Why did John write his gospel and what does it show about why it is important to believe that Jesus is the Christ?

16. Is it still as important today, or was it just for the people of Israel at that time?

## Pray

Please pray for the forthcoming PCC meeting and particularly for final decisions regarding the Families Ministry. We should be able to advertise for the post soon but have various practical matters to sort.

Pray for those Christians living in places where governments are threatened by anything that might undermine their rule and therefore can be very hostile to preaching about Christ.

Give thanks for the work of Yorkshire Camps and pray that the children attending the taster day at the end of September would enjoy the day and be eager to go on a weekend next year.

Pray for those who are starting at college and university and for parents and children beginning to look at schools or courses for next September.

*David Phillips,  
September 2019*

# I Believe in Jesus

## Study 2

### Jesus is the Christ



*The assertion that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, the King God promised) is central to the four gospels and the preaching in Acts. But even the disciples found it hard to accept at first.*

## Preaching Christ

### Read Acts 3.12-26

1. What different names, titles or descriptions of Jesus are used in this sermon?

2. What different events concerning Jesus, past, present and future, are mentioned? (Use the separate sheet to summarise the verses, or just record the chapter and verse numbers.)

3. When Jesus began His public ministry people quickly began to wonder if he was the Christ. What early responses do we see from Andrew (**John 1.41**), the Samaritan woman (**John 4.29**), and demons (**Luke 4.41**), and why?

4. Not only did Jesus tell the demons to be quiet but people accused Him of not saying plainly whether He was the Christ (eg John 10.24). Why do you think He wasn't open about it?

## Doubts

*Even John the Baptist had his doubts about Jesus and after their initial enthusiasm many disciples wavered and some turned away from following Jesus.*

5. In **Mark 8.29-33** just after Peter had declared that Jesus is the Christ what was it that he then got wrong which led to Jesus rebuking him?

6. Peter, like his fellow Israelites, did not expect the Messiah to suffer and die. But what did he eventually say about this in the sermon we started with from Acts 3?

*Did you notice how Peter called Jesus “servant”? Isaiah 52.13-53.12 is famously a prophecy of the suffering servant.*

7. What did Paul preach about Jesus in **Acts 17.2-3**? Jesus also spoke about His suffering being necessary (eg Lk 24.46). Why was it necessary?

8. Another problem was that people expected the Messiah to reign as King in Jerusalem. Why therefore in John **12.32-34** were people struggling with Jesus’ teaching?

9. We will return to the present reign of Christ later in this series but what did Peter say about this in Acts 3.20-21?

## Opposition

10. The disciples preached (Acts 5.42), proved (Acts 9.22) and showed from the Scriptures (Acts 18.28) that Jesus is the Christ. What Old Testament passages could you use to do the same? (Think about all those Christmas and Easter readings.)

11. In **Matthew 2.1-6** how did Herod react to the news about the Christ, the new King?

12. How could there be a cost to confessing Jesus as Christ for the first disciples? See **John 9.22** and **Acts 17.3, 6 & 7**.

13. Why did people react so strongly against the message? In what ways can it still be dangerous for Christians to proclaim Jesus as King?

14. When Jesus was crucified how did people mock His claim to be the Christ? (eg Mtt 26.68, Lk 23.35 & 39, Jn 19.3)