



Dear Family,

For the next six weeks we will be asking the question “Who is Jesus?” and discovering answers through the stories of Scripture, the Apostles’ Creed, and Q&A’s from the Reformed tradition.

Week 1: **Who Is Jesus?**—Matthew 16:13-24; Peter calls Jesus the Messiah

Week 2: **Our Mediator**—Genesis 28:10-22; John 1:43-51; Jesus is the stairway between heaven and earth

Week 3: **Our Substitute**—Isaiah 53 and John 19:1-16; Jesus is sentenced to death

Week 4: **Our Savior**—John 19:17-42; Matthew 27:54; Jesus dies on the cross

Week 5: **The Risen Lord**—John 20:1-18; Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus

Week 6: **The Ascended King**—John 10:29; Acts 1:9-11; Jesus ascends into heaven

## Pass It On

Here are some ideas for continuing the conversation at home:

- **Week 1:** We’ll be talking about several different names or titles for Jesus—Savior, Lord, Messiah. Share with your son or daughter how you chose his or her first and/or middle name. Does the name have a special meaning? Is it a family name? How do you think the name “fits” your child? Spend some time sharing with your child who Jesus is to you.
- **Week 2:** Jacob meets God in a special way. Have you ever been in a space where you felt God’s presence or sensed the holiness of God in a profound way? Share that experience with your child and be open to listening if he/she has an answer for that question.
- **Weeks 3 and 4:** We talk about Jesus death on the cross. Consider renting the film *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) to watch with your young teen. Talk about any thoughts, insights or feelings you and your child had while watching the film, and share what it means for you to know that Christ died for your sins.
- **Weeks 5 and 6:** We experience the hope of the resurrection. Have you ever felt God bringing life out of something that felt like death, hope out of despair? Share what Christ’s resurrection and ascension means to you personally.

Sincerely,

P.S. Check out [www.NurtureKidsFaith.org](http://www.NurtureKidsFaith.org) for more faith-building ideas for home!

# Who Do You Say I Am?

—Matthew 16:13-24, Adapted from NIV

**Narrator 1:** Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples,

**Jesus:** Who do people say the Son of Man is?

**Disciple 1:** Some say John the Baptist;

**Disciple 2:** others say Elijah.

**Disciple 3:** and still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

**Jesus:** But what about you? Who do you say I am?

**Peter:** You are the Christ. You are the Son of the living God.

**Jesus:** Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere man showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.

**Narrator 2:** Then Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

**Narrator 1:** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples what would happen to him. He told them he must go to Jerusalem. There he must suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law. He must be killed and on the third day rise to life again.

**Narrator 2:** Peter took Jesus to one side and began to scold him.

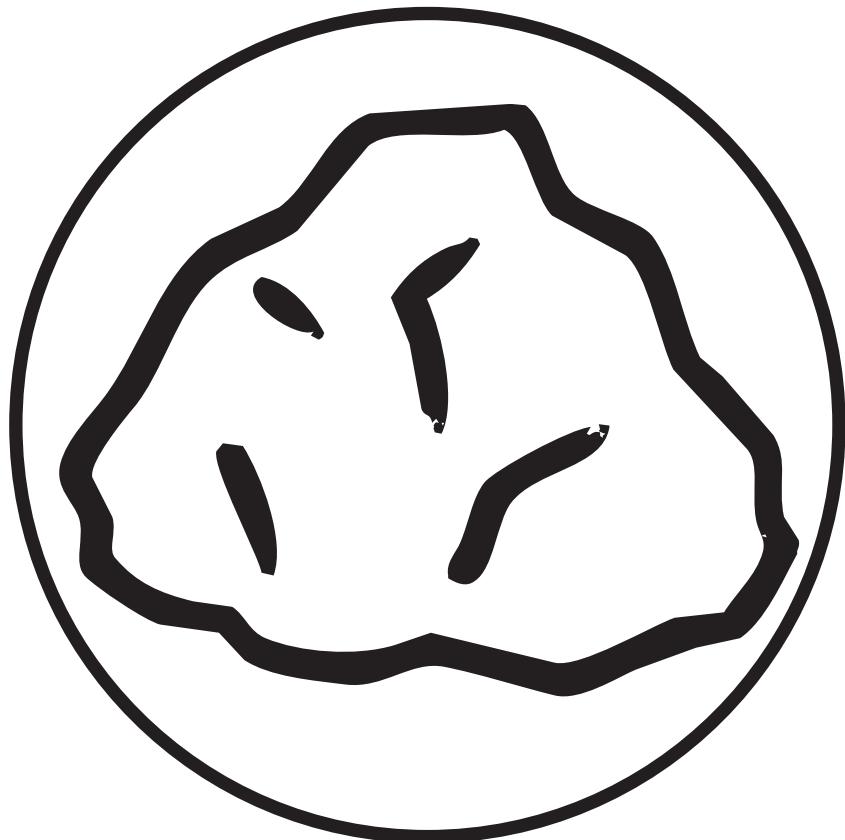
**Peter:** Never, Lord! This will never happen to you!

**Narrator 1:** Jesus turned and said to Peter,

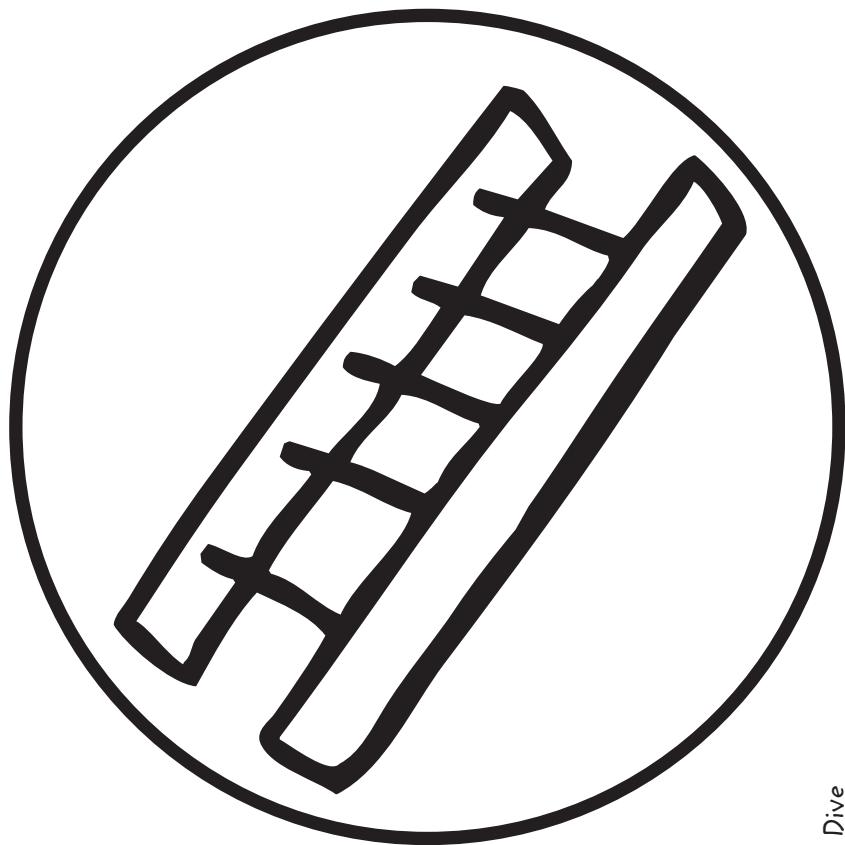
**Jesus:** Get behind me, Satan! You are standing in my way. You do not have in mind the things of God. Instead, you are thinking about human things.

**Narrator 2:** Then Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said,

**Jesus:** If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross and follow me.



Dive  
Year 1, Unit 4, Session 1



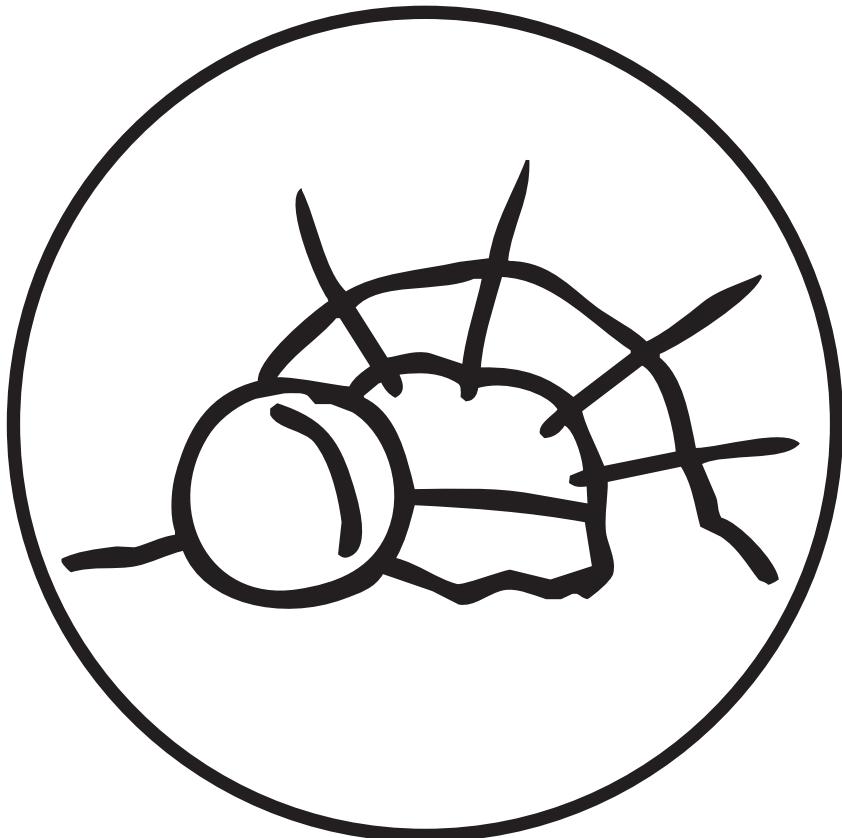
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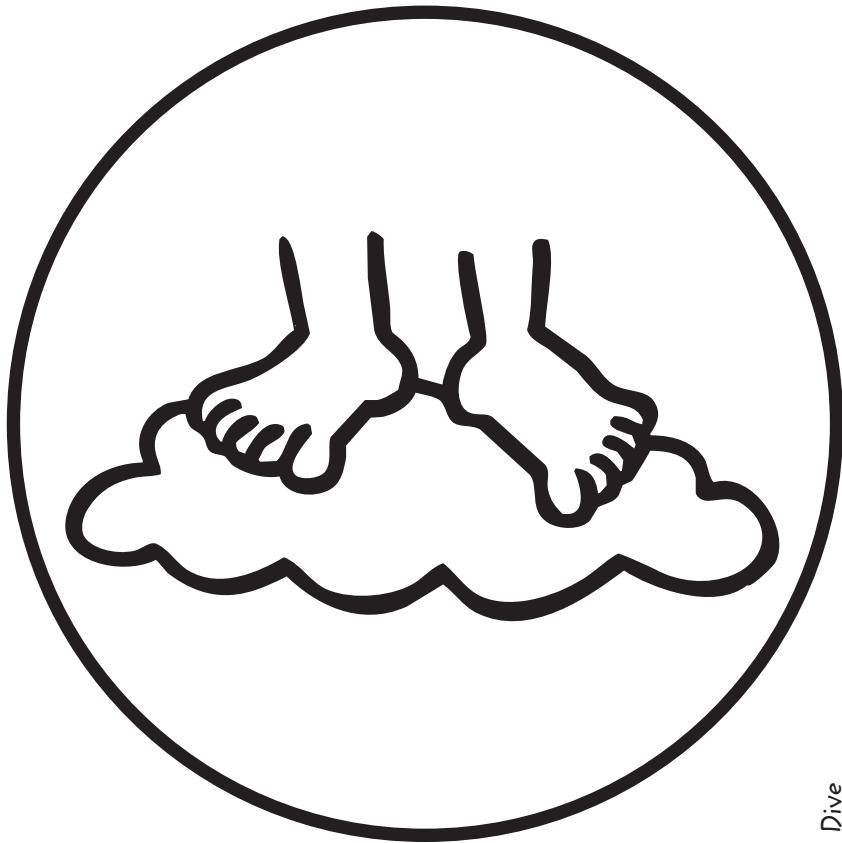
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Year 1, Unit 4, Session 3



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Year 1, Unit 4, Session 4



Dive  
Year 1, Unit 4, Session 5



Dive  
Year 1, Unit 4, Session 6

# Jesus, the Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53 foretells some of the things that happen to Jesus in John 19. Match Isaiah's prophecies with the verses in John 19 that fulfill those prophecies:

Prophecies Fulfilled in John 19	Prophecies Given in Isaiah 53
1. John 19:16	<input type="checkbox"/> A. "He was despised and rejected . . ."
2. John 19:9	<input type="checkbox"/> B. "by his wounds we are healed"
3. John 19:15	<input type="checkbox"/> C. "as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth"
4. John 19:3	<input type="checkbox"/> D. "he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth"
5. John 19:4	<input type="checkbox"/> E. "he was cut off from the land of the living"
6. John 19:1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> F. "it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer"
7. John 19:11	<input type="checkbox"/> G. "a man of sorrow, and familiar with suffering"

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# An Ascension Prayer

**Reader 1:** I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. (*Isaiah 46:9*)

**Reader 2:** I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. (*Isaiah 46:10a*)

**Reader 1:** We remember Christmas—the former time when Jesus, the Son of God, was born in human flesh, emptied of his glory.

**Reader 2:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (*Luke 2:13-14*)

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

**Reader 3:** We remember Easter—the former time when Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, rose victorious from the grave, our Savior and Redeemer.

**Reader 4:** The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” (*Matthew 28:5-6a*)

**People: Alleluia! Christ has risen!**

**Reader 5:** Today we remember Jesus’ ascension into heaven. While with his disciples, Jesus, once emptied of his glory, was taken up into heaven, returning as King of kings and Lord of lords. When a cloud had hidden Jesus from the disciples’ sight, they continued to stare intently up into the sky. (*Acts 1:10a*)

**Reader 6:** Suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (*Acts 1:10b-11*)

**Reader 7:** We see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (*Hebrews 2:9*)

**People: Jesus is our King!**

**Reader 8:** God seated Christ at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that can be invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. God appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body. (*Ephesians 1:20b-23*)

**Reader 9:** Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. . . . Praise the Lord from the earth . . . kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. (*Psalm 148:1-2, 7a, 11-12*)

**People: To him be honor and glory for ever and ever. (1 Timothy 1:17)**

**Reader 10:** Jesus, King of kings, you are our great high priest who has ascended into heaven. (*Hebrews 4:14a*)

**Reader 11:** We will hold firmly to the faith we profess. (*Hebrews 4:14b*)

**Reader 10:** You are not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but you were tempted in every way, just as we are—yet did not sin. (*Hebrews 4:15*)

**Reader 11:** We may approach God with confidence that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (*Hebrews 4:16*)

**People: We come to you with confidence!**

**Reader 10:** Jesus Christ, King of kings and great high priest, you speak to God the Father in our defense.

**Reader 11:** Christ Jesus, you died and were raised to life. Now you intercede for us at the right hand of God. Who shall separate us from your love? (*Romans 8:34-35b*)

**People: No one! Nothing at all!**

**Reader 12:** We remember what happened before and we anticipate the things that are yet to come.

**Reader 13:** Jesus, we will fix our eyes on you. (*Hebrews 12:2*)

**People: Our eyes are fixed on you!**

**Reader 12:** Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him. (*Revelation 1:7*)

**Reader 13:** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (*Revelation 5:11-12*)

**People: Amen! So let it be!**

—Adapted from “Remember the Former Things; Anticipate the Future” by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema from *Reformed Worship*, Issue 91 (March 2009). Used by permission.

1

I believe that true faith is a sure knowledge of God's promises  
and a firm trust that all my sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

2

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord... I believe  
in the Holy Spirit... Amen.

3

I believe in one God, revealed as three distinct persons:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4

I believe that God is a single, spiritual being: eternal, invisible,  
almighty, infinite, and completely wise, just and good.

5

I believe that God is the almighty creator of heaven and earth and the eternal Father of Jesus Christ. God is also my faithful Father, the one I can trust to provide whatever I need for body and soul.

6

I believe that our heavenly Father takes care of and rules everything in our world.

7

I believe that Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, is my only Savior from sin. He is my Lord who delivers me from Satan's power and makes me his very own.

8

I believe that Jesus is both the eternal son of God and a real human being.

9

I believe that, in his life and death, Christ suffered God's anger against sin, shown in Pilate's judgment. He suffered that we might never suffer such severe judgment.

10

I believe that, by hanging on the cross, Jesus took on himself the curse of sin. He actually died, and suffered the pains of hell. He did all this to free us from eternal death.

11

I believe that, by rising from the dead, Jesus conquered death, won for us a new life, and guaranteed our glorious resurrection.

12

I believe that, at God's side in heaven, Jesus pleads for us, leads his church, and sends his Spirit to pour out his gifts on us and defend us from all enemies.

# Memory Challenge Cards (NIV)

Copy on cardstock and cut apart one set for each person in your group to distribute at the end of the appropriate sessions. Consider punching a hole in each card and attaching it to a key ring or small carabineer.



<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 1 and 2</b> He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:2b-3, NIV</p>	<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 1 and 2</b> He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:2b-3, NIV</p>
<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 3 and 4</b> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:4-5, NIV</p>	<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 3 and 4</b> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:4-5, NIV</p>
<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 5 and 6</b> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us had turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:6, NIV</p>	<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 5 and 6</b> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us had turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:6, NIV</p>

# Memory Challenge Cards (NRSV)

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<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 1 and 2</b></p> <p>He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hid their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:2b-3, NRSV</p>	<p><b>Unit 4, Sessions 1 and 2</b></p> <p>He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hid their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.</p> <p>—Isaiah 53:2b-3, NRSV</p>
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**Year 1**

**Unit 1** What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?

**Unit 2** What's the Covenant All About?

**Unit 3** Who Is God?

**Unit 4** Who Is Jesus?

**Unit 5** Who Is the Holy Spirit?

**Unit 6** What Is the Church?

**Year 2**

**Unit 1** What Is Being a Christian All About?

**Unit 2** What's with All the Rules?

**Unit 3** Can't We All Just Get Along?

**Unit 4** Who's Number 1?

**Unit 5** Does What I Do Make a Difference?

**Unit 6** What Do I Say When I Pray?

  
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