



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

10. While there are probably fewer things than many Christians would think, there are some truths that a person *must* believe to be Christian. What things would you say it is absolutely essential that one believe if they're a Christian? Note: We're not talking about the things does a person has to *DO* (baptism, worship, etc.) if they're a Christian; this is about what you must absolutely *believe* to be a Christian. *Can you prove each of your answers with scripture?*

11. Does it really matter what we believe about Jesus? Why or why not?

12. What are some things about Jesus' identity that have been a struggle for you to believe or comprehend?

13. What concrete things could you do in your life this week to intentionally lift up Christ as the Son of God? Will you?



April 4, 2010

Non-Negotiables #1

**JESUS IS THE SON OF
GOD**

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

With this being either the end or the beginning of spring break for many of our area schools, many of our members are traveling. Notice who's missing from your group tonight and let them know this week that you missed them.



OPEN:
(2 minutes)

1. When I was a child, Easter at my house was...
 - All about the candy and hunting eggs
 - A very important Holy Day
 - All about the candy
 - A word we never mentioned at church
 - A family holiday
 - Did we mention the candy yet?

2. Other than scriptural teachings, what are some 'non-negotiables' in your life? (You always root against the Redskins, you never drive on the Beltway at rush hour, you never eat raw seafood, etc.)

3. The media is always reporting the results of the latest poll. Have you ever been a participant in a political poll or other major survey? What was it about?





Read Matthew 16:13-17 & John 8:24

4. **Why do you think Jesus wanted to know what the crowds thought of him?**

5. Peter gives the correct answer about who Jesus is. How fully do you think Peter understood what he said? Explain.

6. When you consider what the disciples report that the people are saying, what do those answers suggest to you? If the results of this "survey" were being reported by the news media, what would they say?

7. **If you were to ask the average person where you work or go to school, "Who is Jesus Christ?" what would he or she say?**
 - a religious nut
 - greatest man who ever lived
 - Son of God
 - great moral teacher
 - a swear word
 - an enigma (mystery)
 - other _____

8. **Who do you think would have a more difficult time recognizing Jesus as the divine Son of God: the people in the 1st century who encountered Jesus personally or people in the 21st Century who have only read about him in the Bible? Why?**

9. Why is the concept of truth important? How is the concept of truth under assault in our post-modern culture? How should Christians respond?

Worth Quoting:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us."

— C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*