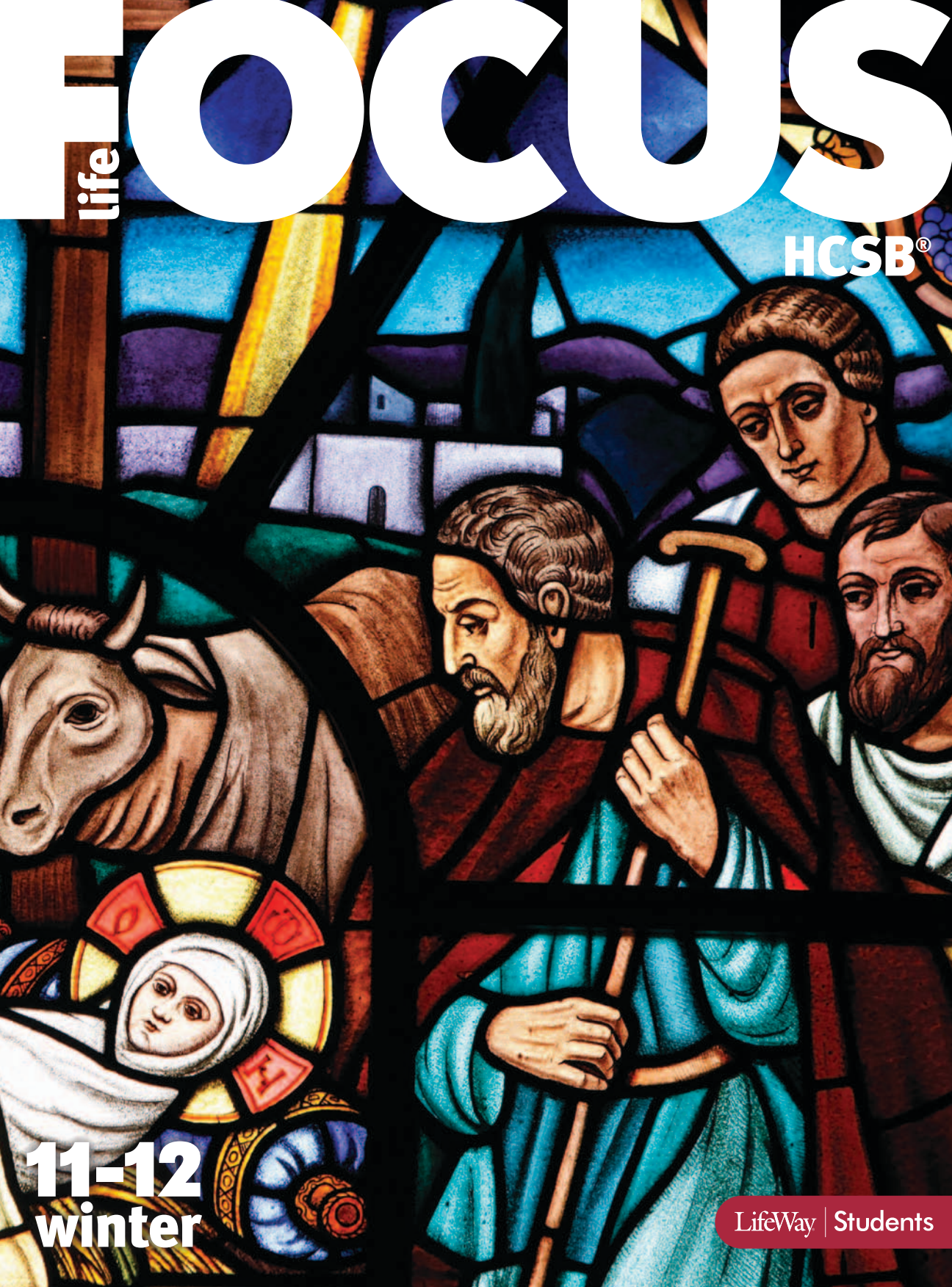


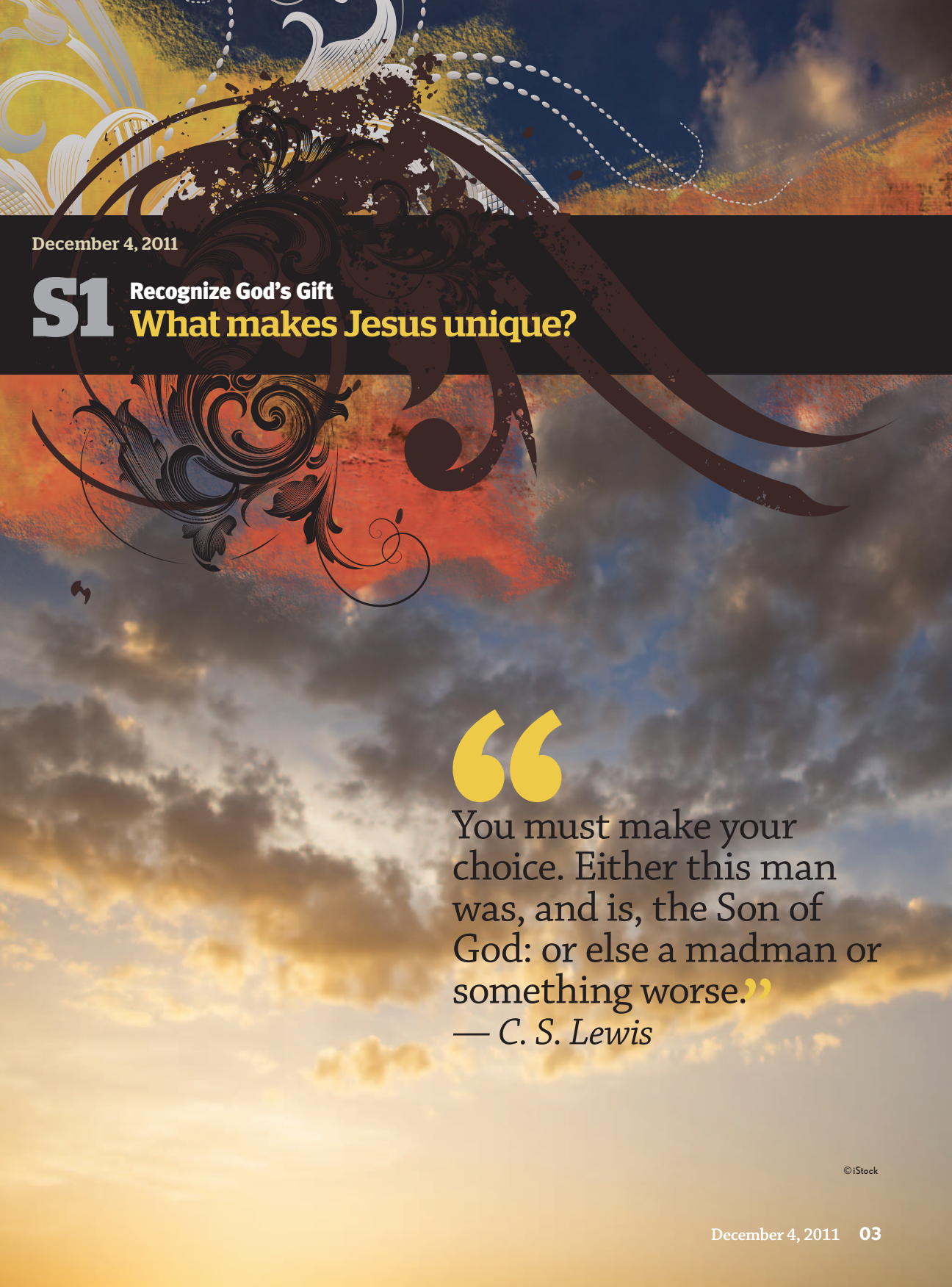
# life FOCUS

HCSB®



**11-12**  
winter

LifeWay | Students



December 4, 2011

**S1** Recognize God's Gift  
**What makes Jesus unique?**

“

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.”

— *C. S. Lewis*

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“The Word” is just one of many symbolic titles for Jesus found in the New Testament. Notice how each of these names expresses a specific truth about His relationship with those who follow Him.

# The Word

## ΛΟΓΟΣ

BELIEF IN JESUS' DIVINITY is crucial to the Christian faith, a fact made evident during one of the greatest debates of all time at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325. Led by Emperor Constantine, 300 leaders denounced and condemned teachings that Jesus was more than a man but less than fully God. They later wrote the Nicene Creed, which included statements affirming the deity of Christ.



- › Son of Man: Jesus identifies with us in our humanity. Matthew 18:11
- › Lamb of God: Jesus gave His life as the sacrifice for our sin. John 1:29
- › Our Intercessor: Jesus pleads on our behalf in heaven. Hebrews 7:25

The opening statement of the Book of John is very similar to the opening statement of the Bible, “In the beginning . . .” But unlike the Genesis passage, John focused on the who of creation rather than the how. One way he did that is by using a unique title for Jesus, “**the Word**” (Greek *logos*). Just as words reveal the thoughts of one person to another, Jesus the Word revealed God the Father to man.

John is the only biblical writer to describe Jesus as the Word:

- John 1:14
- 1 John 1:1
- Revelation 19:13

Why do so many people find Jesus offensive, but are tolerant of Buddha, Muhammad, and Confucius? These other religious leaders didn't claim to be God. Jesus did.

### Was, With: Little Words, Big Meanings

Two very important truths are emphasized in John 1:1.

1. Jesus is a distinct, separate Person from God the Father: the Word was *with* God
2. Jesus is God: the Word *was* God

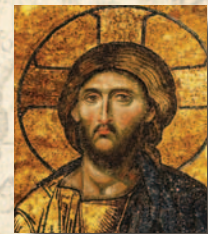
Why is believing Jesus is completely God so important?

## 2 Jesus is completely man.



*John*  
1:10-11,  
14-15

The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**



While *incarnate* is not a word you will find in the Bible, its meaning is based upon Scriptures that refer to Jesus as a person in the flesh (John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; Col. 1:22). Without becoming less than God, Jesus took upon Himself complete human nature. God the Creator became part of creation as a small, helpless baby. He grew up in human skin to experience all the difficulties, temptations, and stress that we face. As God-Man, Christ incarnate made God visible and audible, even touchable. The Word became flesh.

Why is believing Jesus is completely man so important?

*He didn't have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at Him, no appearance that we should desire Him. Isaiah 53:2b*

How can Isaiah's description of Jesus change our perception?

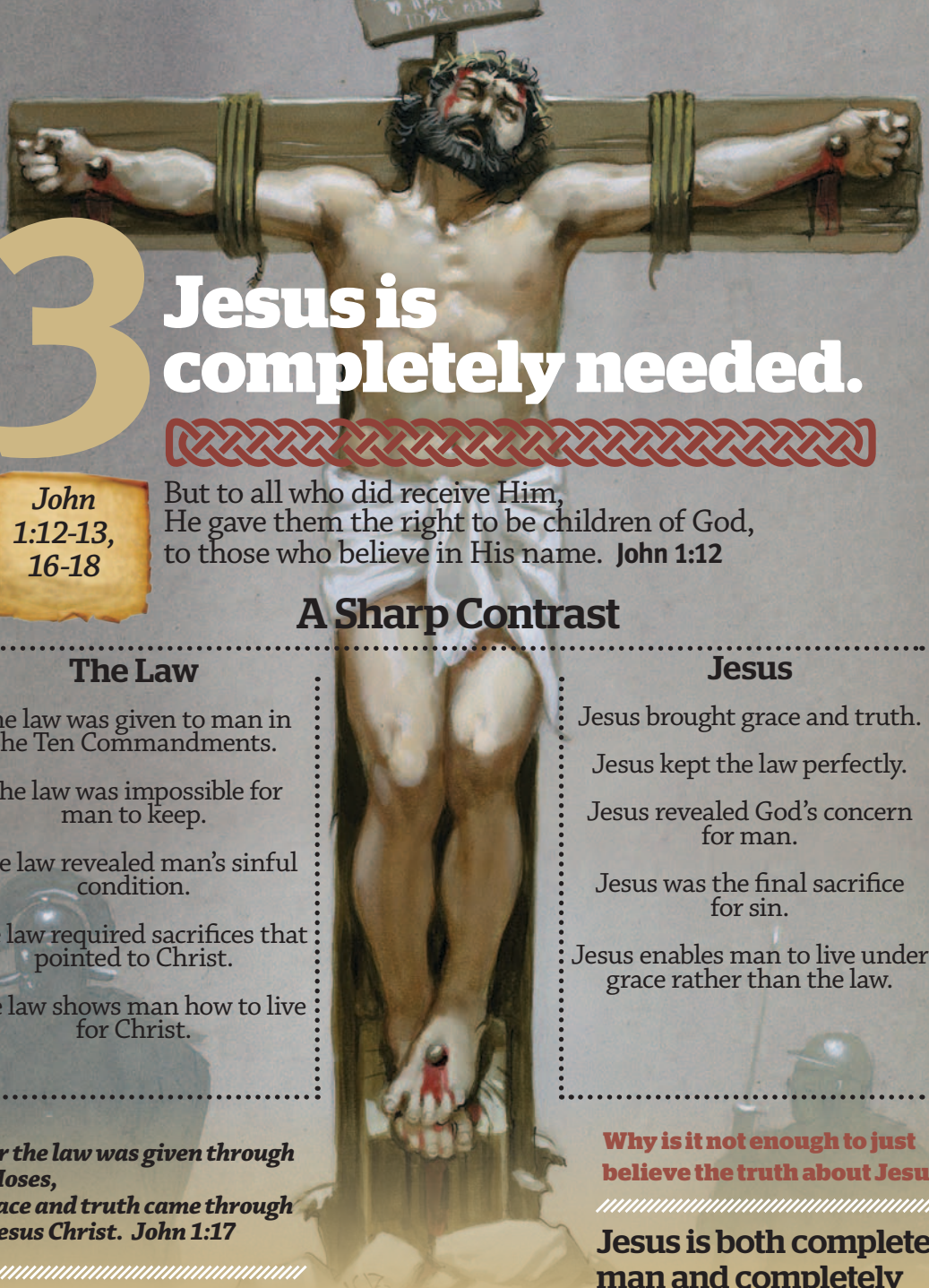
## 1 Jesus is completely God.



*John*  
1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**





# 3 Jesus is completely needed.

*John 1:12-13, 16-18*

But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name. **John 1:12**

## A Sharp Contrast

### The Law

- The law was given to man in the Ten Commandments.
- The law was impossible for man to keep.
- The law revealed man's sinful condition.
- The law required sacrifices that pointed to Christ.
- The law shows man how to live for Christ.

*For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17*

How does our inability to keep God's laws demonstrate our need for grace?

### Jesus

- Jesus brought grace and truth.
- Jesus kept the law perfectly.
- Jesus revealed God's concern for man.
- Jesus was the final sacrifice for sin.
- Jesus enables man to live under grace rather than the law.

### Why is it not enough to just believe the truth about Jesus?

**Jesus is both completely man and completely God, and He makes it possible for us to become children of God.**



## So What?

### I'm convinced that Jesus is unique. Now what do I do?

**Realize you are a sinner.**  
Romans 3:23 states: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
➤ **How do you know you are a sinner?**

**Repent from your sin.**  
Acts 3:19 states: Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.  
➤ **What does true repentance involve?**

**Rejoice in the gift of salvation.**  
Romans 6:23 states: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
➤ **In what way is salvation a gift?**

**Recognize that belief in Christ is necessary for salvation.**  
John 14:6 states: Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."  
➤ **Why is believing in Christ necessary?**

**Receive Christ as your Savior and Lord.**  
Romans 10:9 states: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.  
➤ **How is Jesus both Savior and Lord?**

If you are choosing to believe Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for your sins, pray a prayer similar to this to receive new life through Him and become a child of God:

*"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner. I believe Jesus died to forgive me of my sins. I now accept Your offer of eternal life. Thank You for forgiving me of all my sin. Thank you for my new life. From this day forward, I will choose to follow You. Amen."*

Check the box that applies to you:

I prayed today to receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

Share your decision with your Bible study teacher, a pastor, or a Christian friend! Make plans to become a part of a church and be baptized by immersion as a public expression of your newfound faith.

I became a Christian at an earlier date.

When and where did you become a Christian?

I am not ready to make a decision to become a child of God.

Commit to be open to learning more about what makes Jesus unique and what it means to become a Christian.

# Digging Deeper

## What do you believe about Jesus?

You might be surprised to discover how these groups answer that question.

### Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses (also known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society) deny the deity and eternal preexistence of Jesus. They believe Jesus was the first created being of Jehovah God, and identify Him as being the archangel Michael of the Book of Daniel. The Watchtower teaches that Jesus was crucified on a torture stake instead of a cross. They deny the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead, maintaining the event was instead only a spiritual reality.

### Islam

The Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam, affirms Jesus' supernatural birth, life of miracles, His compassion, and ascension to heaven. Muslims believe God took Jesus from the cross and substituted Judas in His place, or at least someone who looked like Jesus. They also believe Jesus is alive in heaven and will one day return. Muslims do not view Jesus as God, and He is not a central figure in their religion.

### Scientology

The Church of Scientology has no clear definition of the nature or person of God (or Jesus). References to a Supreme Being are rare in their literature, and the Supreme Being is defined in vague terms as embracing the "allness of all."

### Mormons

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is the literal offspring of a heavenly father and mother. They believe Jesus' death on the cross provided immortality to all humans and possible exaltation (godhood) to faithful Mormons. The Mormon Church leader Joseph Smith claimed Jesus told him to join none of the existing denominations because they were in error.

CHECK OUT [www.4truth.net](http://www.4truth.net) for additional information about these and other faiths and worldviews. The information will help you communicate the truths about Jesus to members of those religions.



CHRISTIANS BELIEVE that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. While He was still completely God, He became completely man yet without sin. He died on a cross to provide redemption of people from sin and was raised from the dead with a glorified body. He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God where He intercedes on our behalf. Jesus will return in power and glory to judge the world and to complete His redemptive mission. He dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord. Read the following Scriptures to learn more about why we need Jesus: John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 11:25.