

# Same God or One God?

## Acts 4:12

*"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it." - Acts 4:12*

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**Main Point:** There is only one true God and only one way to salvation

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*If we asked a random sampling of people in our city, "Who is Jesus?," what kinds of answers do you think we would get?*

*How do these answers compare with the teaching of Scripture? What is wrong with thinking of Jesus merely as a great teacher or prophet?*

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In his seminal book, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis famously argued that Jesus will not allow us to view Him merely as a great moral teacher or prophet. Jesus made some incredibly audacious claims. He said things like "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30), and "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but through me" (John 14:6). In other words, Jesus Himself will not allow us to admire Him as a great teacher while rejecting Him as our Lord and God. Therefore, Lewis argued that people can draw one of three conclusions when it comes to Jesus: He is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Son of God who came to earth to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). By looking at the testimony of two of Jesus' closest disciples, Peter and John, we will see that there is no middle ground with Jesus. He is the cornerstone of our faith and our only means of salvation.

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**Peter identifies 3 things that make Jesus special:**

### 1. **HE IS EXCLUSIVE.** Have a volunteer read **ACTS 4:12**.

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Have you ever spent time in an exclusive club, restaurant, golf course, spa, etc.? What was your experience?

What is exclusive about the truth Peter identifies in Jesus here, and why is this offensive to some people?

What does the Lord say about his relationship with us in **Exodus 20:2-4**? Why is He the only one worthy of our worship?

How had the Lord displayed his superiority above all "other gods" to the Hebrew people prior to their exodus from Egypt? Read His words in **Exodus 12:12** for insight.

## **2. HE'S GENEROUS. See again Acts 4:12.**

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The passage says the name of Jesus was **given** so that no one would perish. To whom does it say this name was given in order to save? See also **John 3:16, Romans 10:13, and John 6:47.**

Peter said in v.10 that it was through the name of Jesus that they were healing others. Why does the name of Jesus carry with it so much power? Why is it such a valuable gift?

Jesus says in **Matthew 28:18** that "all authority in heaven and on earth" has been given to him. Jesus has generously given us access to this power. As a Christian do you feel that power is underutilized in your life? Why or why not?

## **3. HE DELIVERS. Recall Acts 4:12 one more time.**

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The name Jesus means "Yahweh saves." How had Yahweh saved His people before? What was his plan to rescue them once and for all?

Peter had healed the lame and delivered them from their physical ailments. The word "salvation" in our text is also translated "deliverance." How has Christ delivered you from your sinfulness?

Read **Colossians 1:17-23**. What does Paul say in v.20 that Jesus accomplished through the blood of the cross? How then are we delivered, or presented, to the Father because of the peace made between you and the Father thru Jesus?(v.21-22)

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### ***Pray:***

*Pray in the powerful name of Jesus that the truth of His word would be made known through you. Ask the Lord to give you opportunity to show others the only Way to the Father and share it generously. Pray the Lord would continue to deliver you from your weakness and strengthen you in His ways.*

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