

HIS IDENTITY IN SCRIPTURE

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their worksheets as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: What are some ways that people can prove their identity? In the United States, people are issued a birth certificate and Social Security number shortly after birth that serves as a legal document proving their identity. Over their lifetime, people may also be issued a driver's license or passport. In addition to these legal documents, people have biological identifiers, such as DNA, fingerprints, dental records, and retinal scans. When this evidence is examined, their identity is proven.

1. We can trust our lives to Jesus because He is God, Creator, and Savior (John 1:1–5, 1:14).

- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, born into the world to reveal God's glory (vv. 1–2, 14).
- Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of all things (v. 3).
- Jesus Christ is Savior, rescuing us from death by His life and from darkness by His light (vv. 4–5).
- Professing our belief that Jesus is God and Savior provides a solid anchor for life.

Illustration: When you ask people who are not Christians to share what they believe about Jesus, they respond in various ways. Muslims describe Jesus as a prophet and wise teacher to be highly revered. Hindus consider Jesus to be a holy man, a wise teacher, and even “a god.” Buddhists refer to Jesus as an “enlightened man” who was a wise teacher. Even the New Age Movement acknowledges Jesus as a wise, moral teacher (source: <http://coldcasechristianity.com/2014/who-is-jesus-according-to-other-religions/>). Yet none of these religions accept Jesus as God, Creator, and Savior who came to earth in human form and offered Himself as the only atoning sacrifice for humanity's sins.

2. We can trust our lives to Jesus based on the credible testimony of others (John 5:31–47).

- Although Jesus testified to His own identity, He knew that Jewish law required the testimony of additional witnesses (vv. 31–32).
- Jesus pointed out that, for a time, the Jews had accepted what John the Baptist testified about Jesus' identity (vv. 33–35).
- By completing the work God had sent Him to do, Jesus had revealed His true identity as the Messiah (vv. 36–38).
- By studying the writings of Moses and the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures, the Jews should have realized who Jesus was, but they refused to accept Him as their Messiah (vv. 39–47).

Illustration: In court, a credible witness can only give testimony concerning those things he or she has personally seen, heard, or experienced. Nothing heard secondhand is admissible as testimony. Those who gave testimony about Jesus were all credible witnesses and testified about what they knew to be true: Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Reflective Questions: Who told you about Jesus? Why was his or her testimony credible? Whom have you told about Jesus? Why is your testimony credible?

Conclusion: The evidence provided by testimonies from God the Father, John the Baptist, Moses, Old Testament Scriptures, and Jesus Himself, all point to the truth that Jesus is God and Savior. The essential question for us is whether we will accept Him as our Lord and Savior and allow Him to rescue us from death and darkness through His life and light.