

## HIS IDENTITY IN SCRIPTURE

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.

**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. Today, we'll examine Scripture to discover the proof of Jesus' identity.

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

**Biblical Background:** Jesus became the expression of God as His living Word—the living, eternal revelation of Himself. John described Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God, born into the world to reveal God's glory (vv. 1–2, 14). Further, John explained that Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of all things (v. 3). Jesus Christ came to be our Savior, rescuing us from death by His life and from darkness by His light (vv. 4–5). When we profess our belief that Jesus is God and Savior, we join with millions of others who bear witness to His true identity.

**Illustration:** In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis described how people see Jesus: “People often say about Him: ‘I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. 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 a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; 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. He did not intend to.”

**Application:** John presented Jesus as God, Creator, and Savior. But, as C. S. Lewis wrote, we all have to decide whether or not to accept Him as such.

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

**Biblical Background:** Although Jesus testified to His own identity, He knew that Jewish law required the testimony of additional witnesses (vv. 31–32). Therefore, 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). Because the Jews had spent centuries studying the writings of Moses and the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures, they should have realized who Jesus was, but they refused to accept Him as their Messiah (vv. 39–47).

**Illustration:** A famous radio commentator that your parents and grandparents used to listen to (Paul

Harvey) told the story of a man who did not believe in God. He became a believer one Christmas Eve when he felt compassion on some birds who were freezing in the cold. Because the birds were afraid of him, the man wished that he could become a bird so that he could show them the way to safety. Suddenly he understood the reason why God came to earth in the form of a human being.

**Application:** Obviously, we were not there to see Jesus walk upon this earth, so our belief in Jesus as God in the flesh is a step of faith. If God had not come in the flesh, we would not know how to be saved from our sin. The way to safety and life would not exist.

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**Conclusion:** Scripture points to the fact that all of these things about Jesus are true (Jn. 5:31–47). Jesus testified that the words of Moses in Scripture were evidence that He is God, the Creator, and the Savior. Jesus is God in the flesh. If we find it difficult to trust the testimonies of other believers, we can read God’s Word and discover that all of it, from cover to cover, points to God’s Son, Christ our Savior.