

Session 5

Who is Yeshua/Jesus?

❖ OPEN IN PRAYER

***Suggestion:** Thank you for continuing to show us more of Who you are, Creator. Thank you that you are loving and want to have a relationship with us. Thank you that you forgive us. Help us to understand more of Who You are in those ways. Open our spiritual eyes to see You, our minds to understand You and our hearts to know You. Amen.*

❖ DEFINING THE TOOL

>>><<< J E S U S >>><<< >>><<< Y E S H U A >>><<<	
Definition	YESHUA: Hebrew name meaning “salvation”; a variation of Yehoshua/Joshua meaning “the LORD saves” or “YHWY saves” CHRIST: Greek for “anointed one” (In Hebrew: MESSIAH)
Synonyms	Yeshua the Nazarene, Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus Messiah

Many people have tried to explain who Yeshua/Jesus is, and many have failed at teaching the truth.

A Lakota woman who grew up in a boarding school shared her experience that she was told repeatedly that God was angry and we deserved His wrath. She cried at the memory and said, “Why didn’t they tell me that God loved me so much that He sent His Son to die for me?”

“I never heard about Him in ceremonies,” she said. It was when someone close to her died that she wanted to know where people go after death. She began searching for God and found a Book of Mormon. She read it for 10 years, but at the end she threw it away because it was empty of the answers she sought. “There was nothing solid to hold onto,” she said.

“It was in prison that I called on God angrily in a prayer and told Him, “If you are real, prove it.

“He answered my prayer so I knew He was real. So I got a bible and took it to my cell and began reading thinking, how am I supposed to know what it means? Then God gave me this verse. I took it and He has never stopped teaching me.”

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”

1 John 2:27

She said God began to show Himself to her and that He knew all of her pains.

Read aloud from your Bible: Isaiah 53:3-6

❖ DIGGING IN

What is in a name? With all the cultures of our world, there are many traditions and methods for naming babies. Some are named for the family they were born into, sharing names with fathers, mothers or siblings. Some are named for the year or season when they were born, for famous people or for elements in nature. Still others are named for the hopes their parents have for their lives, that they will have success or make an impact on their world. Many are given one name at birth and another name when they begin to grow and express their own

unique personality. And in many cultures, loved ones give nicknames or pet names throughout a person's life.

- **Share your stories: How was naming done in your family or community?**

- **Do you have a name that has a special meaning, or do you know someone who does?**

A Note on Bible Languages & Names:

We read our Bible in a modern tongue that we recognize, but the original transcripts were written in two main languages: Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament. Our Lord was born into a Hebrew family, so when God gave the name to His parents, He spoke it in their language: *Yeshua*. The Lord's birth marks the beginning of the New Testament, and the beginning of God's new covenant with humanity, which was for all people and not just the Hebrews. So when the Apostles wrote their records and letters, they used the language most common to both the Hebrew and Gentile (non-Hebrew) peoples in their part of the world: Greek.

The Bibles we see today begin with the original transcripts, written in Hebrew and Greek. We rely on the Holy Spirit to be the guide as teams of scholars translate His Word into a modern language. Ultimately, it is the Holy Spirit who makes sure that the message of His Word is understood by believers when they study the Bible. This is how we have faith to trust the Word of the Bible printed in our time, in our many modern languages.

In Hebrew tradition, a name was of great significance. It described the character of who a child would grow to be.

Read aloud from your Bible: Matthew 1:18-21

- **Why did God say to name the baby Yeshua (see verse 21)?**

Yeshua means God saves:

Ye, or Yeho = Jehovah, Almighty Creator/Father (YHWH, Yahweh)

shua = saves/salvation

The meaning of His name tells us that Jesus/Yeshua was the Creator's plan to save us from sin and separation from God.

❖ **GOD'S PLAN OF RESTORATION**

Because God is so holy, He cannot stand to be near the stain of sin, and cannot let sin pass without justice. In Old Testament times, the people tried to follow all the rules written into the Law of Moses, which was a promise of honor between God and the people. When the people disobeyed or made mistakes, they had to make sacrifices of the bodies and blood of perfect animals, because of the seriousness of breaking a promise to God, and in that way the stain of their sin was covered. Creator/God knew this was not a permanent solution. So, He came as a human to live among us - a perfect human.

We imperfect humans needed Yeshua to take the rap for us sinners. His life was given to us as a promised gift: to save us with His own death, He sacrificed His own body with piercing on the tree of a cross, and by that took the punishment required to honor God's holy justice, giving us forgiveness. He shielded us with the blood of His own body so that when the Creator looks on us He will see, not the stain of our sin, but the covering of His own holiness, and we can be near to God in His love forever. He did this one perfect sacrifice to end all other sacrifices, and to end the system of the Law of Moses for all time, so that anyone can come into His loving presence when they have accepted in faith the covering of the blood of Yeshua.

❖ A VERY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The experience of who Jesus/Yeshua is in your life comes from a personal relationship with Him. No one will know Him exactly as you know Him or will come to know Him. No one sees Him through your eyes and your heart.

He shows Himself to people in a variety of ways, just like He did to people in the Bible. Some knew Him as a healer, some knew Him as a deliverer from evil spirits, some knew Him as a provider of their food; others knew Him as the defender from those who were condemning, or as the one who brought them back to life again. There are many ways to see and know Jesus through the record of His life in the Bible and through prayer and walking each day with Him in relationship. He is all of those things and more.

Churches and denominations will teach about Yeshua/Jesus and the Bible in some different ways. Even teachers within the same church may teach things a little differently. It comes from their interpretation of Him or how they see Him in their own personal walk. Learning how others see Him can help you see Him in ways you may not have before, but what matters most is your own relationship with Him: how you see Him for yourself and how He shows Himself in the Word/Bible. Two parts of His character will always be present in the truth: He is love and He is forgiving.

Understand that we humans have a sin nature. We are not perfect; we sometimes make mistakes or poor choices. No amount of good works will make us good enough compared to Creator God's Holy love and perfect goodness. He saves us by forgiving our sin -- saves us from the evil of Satan and hell and eternity separated from Him -- by the loving sacrifice of Yeshua.

❖ DIGGING IN

Read aloud from your Bible:

Ephesians 2:1-10

Romans 3:23

Romans 7:21-25

- **Describe the struggle that Paul (the writer) is talking about in Romans 7:21-25.**

- **This man was one of the most influential people in spreading the word about Yeshua/Jesus to the world – he wrote at least 8 of the books in the New Testament! Knowing that this apostle of Jesus had the same struggle, how do you feel about facing your own challenges in living by your faith?**

Yeshua/Jesus says He will bring about loving discipline to help correct us onto a better path too. He does this because He loves you.

As the Lakota woman learned for herself who Yeshua/Jesus is, she saw that He wasn't represented correctly in the way she was taught in the boarding school. "It was God's Holy Spirit that taught me. He is a very intimate and personal God. God is Spirit."

In her old ways she said she saw that her people sought God, but they were deceived. What she saw in her old ways was that people were being superstitious and that people believed more in every bad spirit than in the love of their Creator. "There was jealousy and hate and sexual immorality." She said she was told, "We

are a good people,” and that they considered themselves humble, but then they would hold a grudge. They held it inside, but didn’t let it out. She was told she had to be strong and face life; to live it and die. But, people were afraid of death. She remembered that when things were bad, no one she knew ever came to pray for her. Instead she was offered a trip to the liquor store.

But when she got to know Jesus for herself, He answered prayer and she got to know the people who believed in Him and they would come and pray with and for her.

Read from your Bible:

1 John 4:15 - 1 John 5:5

John 15:9

- **Who is your brother or your sister?**

- **How do you show them love? Are there ways that you must change in order to show the love that Creator God has commanded?**

Read from your Bible: 2 Corinthians 12:9

***Group Leader:** Share how you first thought of Jesus and how you know Him in your life now. (Ask others to share too, if they would like to.)*

Read from your Bible:

Matthew 27:11-66

Matthew 28:1-20

John 14:26-28

- **What stands out to you about Yeshua/Jesus?**

- **Who is Jesus for you or who do you think He can be for you?**

❖ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

***Suggestion:** Jesus/Yeshua, thank you for loving us so much that You say to us, “Do not to be afraid.” Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving yourself, knowing the pain in life and death, in order that we can live in Your peace and everlasting life. I want to know you more and live in a spiritual relationship with you that will never end. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*