

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: The book of John Passage: John 5:16-30 – Jesus is God

Opening Prayer: Start with a brief prayer asking for guidance and openness as you reflect on the passage and how it applies to your lives.

1. Warm-Up & Connection

- **Intro Question:**
When you hear the phrase “*like father, like son*”, what comes to mind about your own family?
 - **Icebreaker (Optional):**
Have you ever had your voice mistaken for someone else on the phone? Any funny or frustrating stories?
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2. Scripture Reading

Read John 5:16–30 together as a group.

3. Key Theme: Jesus is God

Reflect Together:

- Why were the Jewish leaders so angry with Jesus?
- What are some ways Jesus makes clear claims to be God in this passage?

Dig Deeper:

- Jesus says “very truly” (or “truly, truly”) multiple times. Why do you think he emphasizes his words so strongly?
 - What does Jesus mean when he says he only does what he sees the Father doing (verse 19)?
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4. The Unity of the Father and the Son

Jesus says that he and the Father:

- Are always working (v.17)

- Share love (v.20)
- Give life (v.21)
- Are both judges (v.22)
- Deserve the same honor (v.23)
- Have life in themselves (v.26)

Discussion Questions:

- Which of these stood out to you the most? Why?
 - How does Jesus' relationship with the Father give us confidence in who he is?
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5. Why It Matters

 **Verse 24:** *“Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life...”*

- According to Jesus, what is the result of believing in him?
 - What difference does it make that the one who *judges* us is also the one who *gives us life*?
 - How does this truth challenge religious performance or rule-following as a path to salvation?
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6. Personal Reflection & Application

- Where are you personally in the journey of believing that Jesus is God?
 - Has there been a time when your belief in Jesus brought you from “death to life”?
 - Are there areas in your life where you need to be reminded that God is loving and trustworthy?
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7. Story of Transformation

Elizabeth shared the story of a woman from a Muslim background who discovered Jesus was not just a prophet—but God. That truth changed her life.

Discuss:

- What impacted you about her story?
- Do you know someone who is on a journey of discovering who Jesus is? How could you encourage them?

8. Wrap-Up & Prayer

- What did God highlight for you in today's discussion?
- How can we pray for one another this week?

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God for revealing himself through Jesus.
- Pray for deeper belief and trust in who Jesus says he is.
- Pray for those still exploring or doubting to encounter Jesus personally.