



## SERIES: “What Child is This”

“Son of Man”

Pastor Meghan DeJong

December 15, 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

### SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

[Discipleship Resources](#)

QUESTIONS? Email Abby: [abby@highrock.org](mailto:abby@highrock.org)

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (connection questions, sermon questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God’s People**, connecting to **God Personally**, and connecting to **God’s Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

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### CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time together on a less intense question.

1. Weekly Check in: Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a next step or application challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?
2. Set a time for one minute per person. Then go around and share your highs and lows for the week.
  - a. Or: What stands out as a place, time, or person where you noticed God in your week?
3. What stood out to you from the sermon this week?

### SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: “Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?” Or, “What stood out to you from the Pastor’s sermon?”

1. **Sermon Reference:** “What names do you like for Jesus? Have you thought about WHY you trend towards certain names when you pray, or when you think about who Jesus is in your life? The names we trend towards indicate something about who we want Jesus to be, or how we want Jesus to perform in our lives. Most of these images are taken from Scripture, and tell us part of the story. But

when we don't acknowledge that each of these notions are limited, we run the risk of making Jesus too much like us...the Good Shepherd, which has taken many forms over the years. This Jesus [Matt 18:12] seeks out the very last one- never willing to let any perish...Or Jesus as Emperor, or Lord. This wasn't explicitly militaristic in ways that this picture might express, but there is an inherent authority and power laden in that title. There's Jesus, the liberator. This Jesus stands with the oppressed and lays flat the wicked systems of power in the world. In various forms, this Jesus identifies as the immigrant, as the one sitting with and setting the captives free.

- a. As a group, how many names of Jesus can you list? Write them down as you name them.
  - b. What are the names of Jesus that are most familiar to you? Which do you resonate with?
  - c. How does the name of Jesus fit with how you have experienced God/ Jesus in your life story? Have there been different names you have resonated with in different seasons?
2. **Sermon Reference:** In our hopelessness, we want a Jesus who is a conqueror, who will make everything right. I know that I want a Jesus who is a liberator, who will start a revolution of real freedom. We want a Jesus who will erase our pain, or depression, or loneliness. It's why we can't wait for heaven. And yes, Jesus allowed titles like LORD, and Son of God, and Messiah. But the Gospels record Jesus using Son of Man more than any other. And I have to wonder if the reason that he did that was so that people would look past their own assumptions of what Jesus was supposed to do, and pay attention to what Jesus was actually about. Son of Man is different. There are references in the Old Testament to the Son of Man, like in an address to the prophet Ezekiel [Eze 2:1], and most of those texts reference humility or suffering present in the son, or sons, of man. For our context, these aren't gender specific connotations, but the language used for humanity.
- a. What are the contexts where you have heard Jesus referred to as the Son of Man?
  - b. How does this name strike you as different from the others you know? How does the ambiguity of the title strike you?
  - c. Given what you know of Jesus, why might this title be the one that Jesus was the most self-referential about?
  - d. What are some assumptions you have about Jesus? Or, how have the names you are familiar with narrow your focus on who Jesus is that might be limiting how you view him?
3. **Sermon Reference:** So why would Jesus take that title? Don't we say again and again that Jesus came to save the world? Wouldn't his nickname want to reflect that? Again, maybe we're trying to put our ideas of salvation about what we see Jesus practicing in salvation. We want the Jesus who will make our marriages and families wonderful, but don't know what to do with a Jesus who tells us that we have to expand our understanding of family [Mark 3:34-35]. We want a Jesus who will bless us with rewarding careers, and financial success, but don't know what to do with a Jesus [Matt. 6:24] who tells us we can't love God and pursue wealth? What if Jesus chose the identification as the Son of Man BECAUSE it wasn't clear? Because the Son of Man could draw our attention to our deeper needs, our deeper shames, and the places only God could heal?

- a. Who are you needing Jesus to be for you in this season?
  - b. When you think about the stories of people you know- who might they be needing Jesus to be?
  - c. How do you reconcile all these pictures and expectations of Jesus?
  - d. What does it look like when we limit Jesus to only one image of who he could be? How might this create distance between ourselves and others?
  - e. How does this limit how we view God?
4. **Sermon Reference:** “It seems as though following the Son of Man might cost some of the security we put into our homes, or our bank accounts, or our time. Pastor John likes to say that everything we say “yes” to means that we’re inherently saying “no” to something else. Is one of your “yeses” taking away your ability to follow the Son of Man? Saying yes to the right sized- house in the right neighborhood might provide a sense of security, but is it causing you to also say yes to a crazy work schedule? And is that crazy work schedule making you say no to family time, or time to connect with God? Is saying yes to your extracurriculars, or test prep, or sports, or music rehearsals causing you to say no to sleep, or time with your friends and family? Do you have TIME to follow the Son of Man? ... These are places where God invites us to sit in discomfort, perhaps pain, while being transformed by the renewing of your mind. God designed your brain to be rewired. And you have to participate in that process, or you will stay on automatic, just coasting. God rewires our affections and passions so that we can be in richer, fuller- more TRUSTING communion with God. Just like the Son of Man.”
- a. What are some of the big Yeses which shape your life right now?
  - b. When you think about your schedule for just the past 3 days or the week, where does it show where your “yeses” have been (intentionally or unintentionally).
  - c. What are the practices or people you would like to be saying yes to?
  - d. Do you resonate with areas of coasting in your life? Do you sense the desire in yourself to stop coasting?
  - e. What does “full life” mean to you? How might God be inviting you into living differently (that might come at a cost) so that you might live a fuller life?
5. **Sermon Reference:** I’m asking you to examine what you are holding on to tightly in order to create the life, or the identity you think you’re supposed to have to be successful. Is it your job? Is it a financial reality? Is it your performance at school? Is it your relationship with your friends, or in your school’s social scene? Is it what you think marriage or parenting is supposed to be? In your work towards these things, are you saying no to the life of service towards community and relationship and love that **[Matt 20:26]** Jesus tells us will make us truly great? Give them to God.
- a. How does Pastor Meghan’s statement above sit with you? Where do you resonate or feel challenged?

- b. Do you notice yourself pushing back as you read anything, what might God be getting your attention about?
- c. Invitations from God to live differently or give them over to God can be challenging. What does it mean to you that these invitations come from your God who knows you, loves you, and sees you? Does it affect how you respond?

## APPLICATION

1. “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Where are the people who need an invitation into community in your life? Are you making physical or relational space to welcome them in? Where are the people who are lonely, or hurting? Are you making emotional space to sit with them in those places? Where are the places where the money God’s given you could be a blessing to someone else, rather than just more security for you? Let the Spirit of God into those places in your life you protect, and let the Spirit transform you. Serve those around you, knowing that in that service, you follow the Son of Man, who gave his life for the sake of the world. We sang in the beginning of the service that Jesus was born to set us free.
  - a. How might your “rewiring” help others better experience Jesus through you?
  - b. When you think of those you interact with day-to-day, who might see the different way you pattern your life and feel permission to live differently as well? How do your priorities set the tone for those around you?
  - c. Consider beginning a regular rhythm of prayer over your yesses and nos. Can you take extra time to respond when you are asked to participate to search your values and prayerfully consider the ask?
  - d. How might carefully vetting your commitments leave you open to being more present to others and the needs around you (your home, your friends, community, town...)

## CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

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## RESOURCES

### SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

**Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 20:20-28**

#### **Daniel 7:13-14**

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was

given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

### **Matthew, chapter 20, beginning with verse 20:**

Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

“What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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### **SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs**

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one method is to use the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly, but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group, you can briefly talk over some of the points and have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?

### **READING THE BIBLE**

[Pastor Dave has provided a few suggestions](#) for Bible reading plans, daily devotionals, and Bible commentaries to help you understand God's Word as you familiarize yourself with it.