

A detailed mosaic of Jesus Christ, likely from a Byzantine or Orthodox tradition. He has long, dark, wavy hair and a full beard. His face is pale with some reddish tones on his cheeks. He is wearing a dark purple or blue robe over a gold-colored garment. Behind his head is a large, golden halo with a cross-like shape in the center. The background is a mosaic of small, irregular tiles in shades of gold, brown, and blue. The text "50 Jesus Centered Questions" is overlaid in white, serif font, centered on the right side of the image.

50 Jesus Centered Questions



Who was Jesus?

There are so many questions people have about Jesus and who He was. And that's exactly what this book is for, except it doesn't answer any of those questions. Instead, it asks more. You have to provide the answer.

This book is to help you start thinking about who Jesus is. Can you answer the question? Can you give a reason for your answer (maybe even find Scripture to support your answer)? That will be easier for some of these questions than for others.

So here are 50 questions about Jesus for you to think about. Do one a day, power through all 50 at once, whatever you think you need to do to start thinking. A suggestion, don't rush, and don't just write the first thing that comes to mind. Think about these questions. You may be surprised what you come up with.

1. Which word comes closest to describing the way you see Jesus—"nice," "fierce," or "mysterious"? Explain.

2. Jesus told Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6)—so why do so many people believe that "being a good person" is how we get to heaven?

3. Both Judas and Peter betrayed Jesus, and both grieved over what they had done—why did Judas choose to kill himself as a result of his betrayal while Peter became the leader of the first-century church?

4. After Jesus' resurrection, when he met a few of his disciples on a beach near their fishing spot, why did he ask Peter three times, "Do you love me" (John 21:15-19)?

5. What did Jesus mean when he said, “I am the vine; you are the branches...For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5)?

6. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, he asked God, “Why have you abandoned me?” (Matthew 27:46)—how do you think God responded to his question?

7. Jesus described himself as the mirror image of his father God—so what are three things that must be true about God?

8. Why did Jesus never date, marry, or even express romantic interest in women?

9. Why did Jesus so often use stories—some of them mysterious and hard to understand—to teach his followers about truth?
10. When artists create drawings or paintings of Jesus, he's always depicted as a good-looking man—is there some reason Jesus has to be good-looking? Why or why not?

11. Why did Jesus choose his first disciples from a rough crowd of “blue-collar” commercial fishermen?

12. When Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to lay down their nets and follow him, why did the two fishermen give up their jobs on the spot to pursue Jesus?

13. Why did Jesus use such strong language with his best friend Peter—"Get behind me, Satan"—when Peter tried to tell him he wouldn't be killed?

14. Why don't we see more examples of Jesus' sense of humor in the Bible?

15. What did Jesus really mean when he told the thousands gathered on a hillside to hear him speak that they'd have to "eat his flesh and drink his blood" (John 6:53) if they wanted any part of him?

16. After Jesus made his "eat my flesh and drink my blood" statement (John 6:53), all but a handful of his disciples left—Jesus asked them, "Are you also going to leave?" (John 6:67) How would you have answered Jesus' question? Explain.

17. When the paralytic who'd camped out by the pool of Bethesda for many years hoping to be healed asked Jesus to heal him, why did Jesus first ask him if he really wanted to be healed (John 5:1-9)?

18. Author and apologist C.S. Lewis said we can legitimately label Jesus only one of three things—liar, lunatic, or Lord. Can you think of any other options? Explain.

19. Jesus' father, Joseph, was a carpenter, and he likely followed in his dad's footsteps until he was 30—is it possible that Jesus could've been a poor carpenter? Why or why not?

20. Do you think Jesus' parents ever had to discipline him—or even spank him? Why or why not?

21. What did Jesus mean when he told his disciples that they should “become like little children” (Matthew 18:3)?

22. Why did Jesus spend so much of his time healing people of their physical ills?

23. Do you think Jesus knew he was the Son of God when he was grade-school age? Why or why not?

24. Jesus used a weapon (a whip made out of cords) to drive the money-changers out of the temple—does that mean that Jesus embraced violence as a legitimate strategy to fight evil? Why or why not?

25. When Jesus was being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, why didn't he immediately tell Satan to go away and not come back?

26. What's the one thing you'd want Jesus to know about you if you sat down to dinner with him?

27. Jesus said we would do greater things than he had done after he went to be with his father (John 14:12)—what are examples of people doing greater things than Jesus did? Explain.

28. What's the difference, if any, between loving Jesus for who he is and loving him for what he can do?

29. Jesus said it was hard—very hard—for rich people to enter God's kingdom, but he sometimes let people spend vast sums of money on him—why?

30. What's the difference, if any, between being a Christian and being a Christ-follower? Which term best describes you?

31. We tend to think most people we know are going to heaven, but Jesus said, "But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it" (Matthew 7:14)—why would Jesus say so few people are really headed for eternal life with God?

32. What, if anything, makes you uncomfortable with the way Jesus is portrayed at Christmastime? at Eastertime? Explain.

33. On the cross, why did Jesus look down at Mary and John, and then say, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and “Here is your mother” (John 19:26-27)?

34. In John 7:1-10, Jesus tells his brothers he’s decided not to go to Judea to attend a special feast, but then he later goes anyway—why?

35. In Matthew 15:21-28, Jesus appears to treat a desperate Canaanite woman harshly—why?

36. If Jesus could walk on water, why didn't he ever fly?

37. Jesus healed so many people by simply touching them—could he have healed his own wounds suffered during his scourging and crucifixion? If so, why didn't he? If not, why not?

38. Why did Jesus wait until he turned 30 to start his “public ministry”?

39. In the Christmas carol “Away in a Manger,” the lyrics assert that Jesus didn’t cry when he was born—do you think that’s true? Why or why not?

40. After his resurrection, Jesus walked with two of his best friends all the way to Emmaus, but they didn’t recognize him—why?

41. His early followers expected Jesus to lead a political revolt against their Roman oppressors—why didn't Jesus work to change the political realities of his time?

42. When Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15), what was he trying to say about God's character and personality?

43. Jesus' first recorded miracle was turning the water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana (John 2:1-10)—that seems almost like a party trick rather than an appropriate use of his authority and ability, so why did he do it?

44. The Pharisees were the respected “church leaders” of their day—why did so many of them hate Jesus so much?

45. Sometimes people who don't believe in Jesus say the biblical stories about him were made up by the Bible's authors—what's one thing Jesus said or did that makes you think no one could have made it up?

46. Pilate tried several times to save Jesus from crucifixion—why do you think he did that?

47. All of us were taught to not call other people hurtful names, but Jesus called the Pharisees “snakes,” “whitewashed tombs,” and “hypocrites”—how do you explain what Jesus did?

48. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples behind closed doors after his resurrection, he asked for something to eat—why?

49. Jesus spent a good deal of his ministry time identifying and casting out demons—why doesn't this happen more often in our churches today?

50. Did Jesus purposely choose Judas to be a disciple because he knew he would betray him, or was Judas' betrayal a surprise to him? Explain.

Are there any questions that you would ask?