

*This midweek study will explore the biblical teaching of Jesus' sinlessness. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Sinlessness of Jesus

While the Bible affirms the full humanity of Jesus, it also affirms that Jesus was completely sinless throughout His earthly life (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:22). Nevertheless, because Jesus was fully human, He experienced real temptation of sin, as seen during His trials in the wilderness (Matt. 4). Yet even though His trials and temptations were real and similar to the rest of humanity's, Hebrews 4:15 confirms that Jesus did not sin.

### 1 The Bible affirms Jesus' sinlessness, a prerequisite for His being our sacrifice (Ex. 12:5; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

- ▶ When have you really wanted something to be perfect? Why did you want it to be perfect?
- ▶ When does the Bible call for something to be perfect?

#### Read Exodus 12:5.

- ▶ What was the Passover Lamb for?  
If your students don't know the Passover story, please fill them in.
- ▶ What were the requirements for the Passover Lamb? Why do you think the Lord ordained these requirements?

#### Read 1 Peter 1:18-19.

- ▶ What connection did Peter make between Jesus and the Passover Lamb? What particular characteristics of the lamb did Peter emphasize?
- ▶ Why, then, is Jesus' sinlessness so precious? What would happen to our salvation if Jesus were not sinless?

#### Read Hebrews 4:15.

- ▶ What does Hebrews 4:15 guarantee us about Jesus' state of sin? How should our hearts respond to this assurance?

### 2 The Bible also affirms the reality of Jesus' temptations throughout His life (Luke 4:13; Heb. 4:15).

#### Read Hebrews 4:15.

- ▶ We've seen that Hebrews 4:15 teaches us about Jesus' sinlessness. What other truths can we pull from this verse?
- ▶ Do you think it was possible for Jesus to sin? Were Jesus' temptations real?
- ▶ What are some of the temptations we (or others) face?
- ▶ According to Hebrews 4:15, did Jesus face the same temptations we did? How many of them?

- ▶ Jesus wasn't tempted in exactly the same way we are (for instance, Jesus would not have been tempted to text in class since He didn't have access to a smartphone). In what sense, then, was Jesus tempted in the same way we are?
- ▶ Consider some of the temptations we listed earlier that we face regularly. In what way did Jesus face these same temptations?
- ▶ How does that fact that Jesus identifies with your temptations but never succumbed to sin help you in your war against sin?

### 3 Because Jesus was truly tempted, He can empathize with us; because He was truly righteous, He can impute His righteousness to us (Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 2 Cor. 5:21).

#### Read Hebrews 4:15 (again).

- ▶ What comfort should we get from Hebrews 4:15?

#### Read Hebrews 7:26 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- ▶ What is the flip side of Jesus being tempted? How did he respond to every temptation?
- ▶ Jesus was sinless. What happens to Jesus' righteousness, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21?
- ▶ Theologians often marvel at Jesus' "manifold excellencies," to quote Jonathan Edwards; that is, seemingly opposite glories that are both a part of who Jesus is. How is the dual truth of Jesus' temptation and Jesus' sinlessness one of those manifold excellencies? How should these contrasting but complementary glories compel our hearts to revere and treasure Him?

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How does Jesus' temptation and sinlessness bring comfort to us when we fail? How does it give us courage and strength when we war against sin? How can we use these truths to love others well?