



Come. Follow. Me.
Jesus's Invitation of Life
#9 – The Son of God (Matthew 16:13-16)

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”
 – Matthew 16:13-16 (New International Version)

Throughout His ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing (Matthew 4:23), Jesus invited people to, “Come, follow me” (Matthew 4:19; 19:21; Mark 1:17; 10:21; Luke 18:22). This is the call to discipleship – yielding our _____ to the _____ of Jesus.

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.’” – Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

1. Come = the invitation to change both the _____ and the leadership of your life.
2. Follow = the process of learning a new way to live in _____ with Jesus’s commands, teachings, example, and voice.
3. Me = discovering who Jesus **truly** is because His is the only “name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” – John 20:30-31 (NIV)

Why is the title “Son of God” significant?

1. The title originated with ancient peoples like the Egyptians and other Eastern realms as a _____ title. As it gained acceptance within Western empires, including the Roman Empire, it came to be used more as a designation identifying allegiance to certain deities.
2. In the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament), the phrase only appears in Genesis 6:2 & 4 to describe certain _____ men or, perhaps, angelic beings. There are other allusions, however, to heavenly beings (Psalm 82:6), and even the nation of Israel (Exodus 4:22-23; Hosea 11:1) as God’s son or sons.
3. During the intertestamental period (the _____ years between the final Hebrew prophet, Malachi, and the coming of John the Baptist), some writings among the Qumran community (a sect of devout, monastic-like Jewish believers) describe a son of God in messianic terms.
4. So, when Jesus begins His ministry and the term “Son of God” begins being applied to Him, it is highly unusual and significant. It is not a term widely associated with the Messiah. It is _____ to Jesus.

Why is it a big deal for Jesus to be the Son of God?

1. It is important to note who acknowledged Him as the Son of God.
 - a. The first to identify Jesus as the Son of God is the angel, _____, during his announcement to Mary of her carrying and birthing the Messiah (Luke 1:32; 35).
 - b. During His ministry, it was most often _____ who acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.
 - i. The devil _____ Jesus as such during the temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).
 - ii. Numerous _____ entities proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God upon their expulsion from their victims’ bodies (Matthew 8:29; Mark 3:11; 5:7; Luke 4:41; 8:28).
 - iii. The _____ Roman centurion who stood guard at the cross exclaimed Jesus as the Son of God upon His death (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39).
 - c. The disciples called Him the Son of God.
 - i. Nathanael (Bartholomew) is the _____ (John 1:49).
 - ii. All the disciples _____ Jesus as the Son of God after seeing Him walk on water and rescue Peter from drowning (Matthew 14:33).
 - iii. Peter’s “_____” (Matthew 16:16).
 - iv. Martha may not have sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to Him as a disciple like her sister Mary (Luke 10:39), but she, too, learned from Jesus and called Him both _____ and Son of God (John 11:27-28).
2. Jesus’s frequent reference to God as His father and to Himself as His Son was grounds for His arrest, conviction, and execution for blasphemy (Matthew 26:63-66; John 10:33; 19:7). The Jewish religious leaders understood this designation as a direct claim to _____.

“For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” – John 5:18 (NIV)

Why is Jesus as the Son of God important for us?

1. The Son reveals God as a loving (John 3:15), caring (Matthew 10:29-31), and _____ Father (Matthew 7:11).
2. Through faith in the Son, we, too, become sons and daughters of God (Galatians 3:26).

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” – Romans 8:29 (NIV)