



WHO IS THIS MAN? I AM



*Missing a handout or answers from the **Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament** series? Needing another booklet to keep copies in? Resources are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Also check out the Podcast on Lakeland's website to hear past messages.*



UP-COMING MESSAGES: *KNOWING JESUS THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT* FOUR-PART SERIES: WHO IS THIS MAN?

DEC. 10 — THE SUFFERING SERVANT: We look to so many powers to save the world: politics, protest, media, fact checking, law enforcement, and go-fund-me. In our third message of the Christmas Season, Jesus reveals to us the one real thing that actually changes the world. The answer will surprise you.

DEC. 17—THE SON OF MAN: Jesus called himself (constantly) The Son of Man. But what did that really mean? When people heard it, what did it mean to them. And what should it mean to us?

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

DEC. 24 —THIS FULFILLS WHAT WAS WRITTEN: Join us Dec. 24 (2:30p.m. or 4p.m.) as we celebrate the birth of Christ and finish our *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament* series by examining the Old Testament prophecies, promises, and passages Jesus fulfills!

DEC. 31: Guest speaker

UPCOMING MESSAGE FOR 2018: FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Jan. 7 —Part 1: *Free Your Mind*: This week we begin our Financial Freedom series by learning to see money as God sees it. Armed with this view, we protect ourselves from harmful thoughts and habits that wreck our financial well-being.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER REFUGEE CHRISTMAS: Help support refugee soap makers start a new life. \$10 per bar of soap. Great stocking stuffers combined with a great cause! See table in the lobby through Dec. 17.

GUY MOVIE NIGHT: Join the guys of Lakeland on Dec. 11 from 7:30-9:30p.m. for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in preparation for the upcoming release of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

AT THE WELL WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE: Join the women of Lakeland on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7p.m.-9p.m. in the Lakeland Youth room. Bring an ornament to exchange (\$7-\$10 value) and an appetizer or dessert to share.

ADVENT KITS FOR SALE: Advent Begins today. We encourage you to invite family and friends to celebrate Advent together. Again this year we are selling kits for \$13. If you only need guides or candles, see the "ala carte" table against the wall.

HOPE CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE: Take an ornament from the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary to support the ministries at the Hope Center. Purchase the item and place it unwrapped under the tree by Dec. 24.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES will be 2:30p.m. and 4p.m. There will be no Sunday morning service on Christmas Eve.

YEAR-END GIVING: Your check or tithe must be dated by Dec. 31 to count for the 2017 year. You can also give online using the Lakeland APP or Lakeland Connect.

VERONICA'S VOICE TRIVIA NIGHT: Fundraiser for Veronica's Voice is Saturday, Jan. 13 at 7p.m. in the Lakeland Lobby. Cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of 8. Register at www.veronicasvoice.org or contact Vince Tucker: vincetucker1969@gmail.com

BRIDGES MILESTONE: A retreat for 5-8 graders, parents and older siblings. Come learn how to connect as a family from Mike and Becky Qualls. Feb. 2-3, 2018 at the Three Trails Conference Center in Independence. Register via Forms in Lakeland Connect. (Registration Deadlines: \$50 by Dec. 17, \$55 by Jan. 7 and \$65 by Jan. 21)

WHO IS THIS MAN? I AM

In John 8:56-58, the Israelites were ready to stone Jesus for saying "... before Abraham was even born, I AM." Why?

The answer comes from the Old Testament, Exodus 3.

Moses is in the wilderness and hears the voice of God, "I have heard my people cry out for rescue ... go, tell them that I am coming for them." He protests and asks what do I tell them when they ask "What is his name?"

God replies: "I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel:

I am has sent me to you." — Exodus 3:14

In John 8, Jesus is saying he is the God from the burning bush. The God who is!

The translations for "I am" from Hebrew and Greek are difficult. Here are some of the translations for "I am":

I am who I am

I am who I was

I am who I shall be

I was who I was

I was who I shall be

I shall be who I am

I shall be who I shall be

God came on that first Christmas to be GOD WITH US the scripture says.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

- ✦ He heals the sick.
- ✦ He eats dinner with sinners in public.
- ✦ He meets sinners in the middle of the night who are too embarrassed to be seen with him
- ✦ He shows up for anyone.

If you reject God, torture him, kill him — he will plead for your forgiveness and give himself for you.

If you accept him as Lord, he will come into your life through the power of the Holy Spirit and take you on an adventure you could never imagine.

Reflection

Who are you becoming?

Will you accept the offer of a God who can take the worst you have to offer and still forgive you and invite you to repent — to turn — and follow him? Why or why not?

Who are you in God's story?

December 3, 2017



Bible Reading Track:

Esther 1-10; Ezra 1, 3-7, 8:15-10:17



CHRISTIANITY: Jesus' story makes all the pieces fit:

The origin of the universe.

The amazing power of love.

The problem of evil and how it will be solved.

Atheist: we're just animals passing on genes.

Buddhist & Hindu: we're illusions waiting to be reabsorbed into the universe.

Witchcraft: spells and chants to create our own god to take care of us.

Judaism: following a strict Code of Laws.

Islam: we're so dirty, God can't be among us.

Jesus is saying ... ***I love you and I can treat you better than that!***

Reflection

Homework: Watch SNL's Thank You, Scott.

