

## The Son of Man Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Has anyone ever given you a nickname?
2. What is your favorite genre of movie?

**Read the following passages:** Daniel 7:9-14; Mark 2:1-11.

Daniel 7 records a vision and an interpretation that had great influence on Jewish expectations concerning the kingdom of God. The son of man in Daniel 7 appears to be a divine being who will reign with God over everything forever. Who could this figure be? A Davidic king? An angel? Israel herself?

When Jesus began his public ministry, he referred to himself as “the son of man,” and demonstrated authority to teach, to heal, to drive out demons, and to forgive. After Jesus made an unmistakable allusion to Daniel 7 while on trial before the Jewish high priest, the high priest accused him of blasphemy (see Mark 14:60-64) and condemned him “as worthy of death” (Mark 14:65). But Jesus’s resurrection vindicated his claims and cemented the central confession of the Christian faith: Jesus is Lord.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What features of Daniel 7:13-14 suggest that the “one like a son of man” is a divine figure? Why would that idea present challenges for a typical Jewish person in the first century?
2. Why do you think Jesus often referred to himself as “the son of man”? What are some of the reasons that Jesus’s first followers concluded that He is the divine Son of God?
3. Jesus taught the people with authority. Some of Jesus’s teaching is outlined in the famous Sermon on the Mount. Which of the following instructions (paraphrased) most challenge you?
  - Don’t hold on to anger. Instead, pursue reconciliation.
  - Don’t look at anyone as a sex object. Sex is sacred. It’s for your spouse alone.
  - Don’t manipulate people with your words. Just be honest.
  - Don’t seek revenge. Instead, pray for your enemies.
  - Don’t make a show out of religion. Choose to honor God when no one is looking.
4. When Peter rebuked Jesus (Mark 8:31-33), he was surely unaware that he was being influenced by a satanic voice. In what areas do you think you are most prone

to demonic influence?

5. Consider some of the following ways demonic spirits can gain influence in a person's life. Are any of these factors present in your life? Explain.
  - Wrong beliefs
  - Withholding forgiveness
  - Habitual sin (especially sexual sin)
  - Traumatic experiences
  - Demonic activity in the lives of your parents or grandparents
  - Experiences with false religions or the occult
6. Read Mark 9:38-41. Why do you think employing Jesus's name enabled people to drive out demons?
7. Healing played a big role in Jesus's ministry and in the ministry of the early church. What can we do to see more people healed through prayer in Jesus's name?
8. When a group of men lowered their friend on a mat to be healed by Jesus, why do you think Jesus responded by saying, "Son, your sins are forgiven"? Why is forgiveness so important? Do you think God has truly forgiven you? How is your answer to that question impacting your life?

**Pray**