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## **IMMANUEL**

- 1. How have you experienced "Immanuel" God being with you, in your life thus far?
- 2. Matthew begins and ends his Gospel (see Matthew 28:20) with the promises that God is with us. How would your life be different if you began and ended each day with the firm belief that God is with you?
- 3. What does this title of Jesus reveal about his nature?

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

- 1. Why do you think John's Gospel uses images of light and darkness to describe Jesus and the world's response to him?
- 2. What do the terms "light" and "dark" mean to you?
- 3. Have you ever felt you were living through a time of darkness? Describe what it felt like.
- 4. Have you experienced Jesus as light? If so, how?

### **CHILD**

- 1. What images come to mind when you think of the child Jesus?
- 2. Why do you think Luke mentions that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that he was Mary's son?
- 3. Why do you think God allowed his Son to be born in such humble circumstances and to be placed in a manger?

### BREAD OF LIFE

- 1. Jesus knew that bread is one of life's necessities, so what did he mean by counseling his followers not to work for food that spoils? What are the implications for your life?
- 2. Various Christian denominations have interpreted Jesus' words about eating his flesh and drinking his blood differently. How have these words impacted your own spiritual journey?
- 3. Discuss the various ways in which it is possible for a person to "feed on Jesus."

### **PHYSICIAN**

- 1. Why do you think Jesus responded to John the Baptist in the way he did in Matthew 11:2–5? What does this say about his purpose for coming into the world?
- 2. Do you think Jesus still heals people today? Why or why not?
- 3. Have you experienced God's healing power in your own life? If so, how?
- 4. In Luke's Gospel, in a rather roundabout way, Jesus refers to himself as a "physician." Yet his words indicate that his work as a physician would not always be well received. What do you think he meant?

## LAMB, LAMB OF GOD

- 1. Jesus refused to defend himself when dragged before the Jewish leaders and before Pilate and Herod. How does this relate to the passage from Isaiah? What does it say to you about Jesus?
- 2. Imagine that you are walking into the temple holding a young lamb in your arms. He is like a favorite pet, but now he is going to be sacrificed for your sins. How do you feel? Now imagine doing the same thing over and over because no one sacrifice can possibly take away your sins. What thoughts go through your mind?
- 3. What do you think of when you think of Jesus as the Lamb of God? How does this title relate to your life?

## KING OF KINGS

- 1. Why do you think Scripture presents the reign of Jesus in two such different ways, as in the passages included in this chapter?
- 2. Write a list of qualities that would describe the perfect king. Now compare and contrast these with the lives of today's rulers.
- 3. What do you think it means to have Jesus as your king? How have you experienced his reign in your life thus far?
- 4. What would life on earth look like today if Jesus' reign was perfectly established?

### PRINCE OF PEACE

- 1. What does the word "peace" mean to you? How does this differ from the biblical idea of *shalom*?
- 2. Why is the "Prince of Peace" a fitting title for Jesus? Can you think of incidents in his life that display his peace?
- 3. What do you think it means to walk in "the path of peace"?
- 4. Ask yourself whether you are experiencing Christ's peace in your life. How can you participate more deeply in his peace?

## CHRIST, MESSIAH

- 1. Describe in your own words what it means to say that Jesus was anointed, or set apart for God's service.
- 2. Why do you think the Acts 2 passage speaks about the need for repentance and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ?
- 3. What do you think it means for believers to be anointed or set apart for Christ's service? How have you experienced this anointing in your own life?
- 4. What do you think it means to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

## RABBI, RABBOUNI, TEACHER

- 1. Why do you think Jesus cautioned his disciples in Matthew 23:8 against the title "rabbi"?
- 2. Why do you think Jesus washed his disciples' feet the night before his death, making this one of the last lessons he would leave them prior to his crucifixion?
- 3. Describe ways in which you have experienced people in leadership serving you.
- 4. How would your life be different if you understood that your primary identity consisted of being a disciple of Rabbi Jesus?

### WORD

- 1. Compare Genesis 1:1-5 with John 1:1-5. Why do you think John begins his Gospel this way?
- 2. John says that though "the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him" (John 1:10). Do you think this is still true today? Why or why not?
- 3. What does it mean to "believe in his name" (John 1:12)?
- 4. Read John 1:14. What do you think it means to see God's glory?

## CORNERSTONE, CAPSTONE

- 1. Why do you think Jesus' comments about "the stone the builders rejected" immediately follows the parable of the vineyard?
- 2. What do you think it means to build your life on Jesus as the Cornerstone?
- 3. What does it mean that Jesus is a stone that people will fall on?

### BRIGHT MORNING STAR

- 1. Jesus says that he is coming soon. In what ways do you think his second coming will differ from his first?
- 2. Describe your attitude toward the second coming—fear, doubt, hope, joy? Why do you feel the way you do?
- 3. What kinds of people is Jesus describing in the passage from Revelation?

## LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

- 1. Why do you think the book of Revelation portrays Jesus as both Lion and Lamb?
- 2. In the Bible "seven" is considered a sacred number, symbolizing perfection or completeness, while a "horn" symbolizes power. What does this say to you about how the Lamb is portrayed in Revelation 5?
- 3. How have you experienced and understood both the "lamblike" and "lionlike" nature of Jesus in your own life?
- 4. If you could choose one adjective to describe this passage from Revelation, what would it be and why? Would you call it bizarre, moving, perplexing, enlightening, or something else?

### LORD

- 1. How does God's idea of greatness differ from the usual definition?
- 2. What do you think it means that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?
- 3. How have you experienced Jesus being Lord in your life?

### **FRIEND**

- 1. Explain in your own words how Jesus defines friendship in the passage from John 15:9–16.
- 2. Describe the best friendship you have ever had. How does it compare with the way you have experienced Jesus' friendship?
- 3. How can you deepen your friendship with Christ?
- 4. If Jesus died for us while we were still his enemies, as Romans 5:6–11 tells us, how should we regard our own enemies?

### ALPHA AND OMEGA

- 1. Can you imagine a human being claiming to be the A to Z? Why or why not?
- 2. How do you think this title relates to Christ's divinity?
- 3. Try to relate this title, Alpha and Omega, to Jesus' role in both creation and in world history. What do you think it means?
- 4. What would it mean to say that Jesus is first and last in your own life?

# JESUS THE SAVIOR

- 1. What comes to mind when you hear the name "Jesus"?
- 2. Though "Jesus" was a common name in first-century Palestine, God sent an angel to announce the name to Joseph. Comment on the significance of this.
- 3. Why do you think Jesus' name is linked to the name of *Yahweh*, the covenant name of God in the Hebrew Scriptures?
- 4. Describe what salvation means to you.

## BRIDEGROOM, HUSBAND

- 1. What does the passage from Isaiah reveal about God's character?
- 2. What does it reveal about the nature of his relationship with his chosen people?
- 3. How does the passage from Revelation compare and contrast with the passage from Isaiah?
- 4. What do you think it means that Jesus is the Bridegroom?

### SON OF DAVID

- 1. Do you think the prophecy recounted in 1 Chronicles was fulfilled in the life of David's son Solomon? Why or why not? (See 1 Kings 10:26–11:13.)
- 2. Compare the lives of Jesus and David. What similarities do you see? What differences?
- 3. Consider how different life might be if you lived under a completely corrupt or incompetent government. Now think of how different life might be if you lived in a country that was perfectly governed, ruled by a leader who was all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving. Describe the differences.

## PRIEST, PROPHET

- 1. Why do you think it is important that Jesus, as High Priest, is able to sympathize with our weaknesses?
- 2. What about Jesus made him capable of sympathizing with us?
- 3. Why do you think Jesus was more effective than the priests of the Old Testament?
- 4. What do you think it means to say that "the Son is the radiance of God's glory"?
- 5. How has Jesus as Prophet revealed God to you?

## SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

- 1. How did Jesus fulfill Daniel's vision of "one like a son of man"?
- 2. What do you think it means to say that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 3. Why do you think Jesus cautioned his disciples against telling anyone that he was the Messiah?
- 4. Describe your image of the ideal father. How does this compare with your image of who God is?
- 5. Describe your image of the ideal son or daughter. How does this compare with your image of yourself in relationship to God?
- 6. How does Jesus as the ideal Human Being reflect your understanding of God's purpose for all human beings?

### GOOD SHEPHERD

- 1. Why do you think Jesus describes his relationship to his people as Shepherd and sheep?
- 2. The passage from John contains both frightening and comforting images. It is frightening to think that thieves, robbers, and wolves want to prey on the sheep, but comforting to know that Jesus will go to any lengths to protect them. How do these images express spiritual realities?
- 3. The phrase "good shepherd" implies that there are also bad shepherds. How is it possible to tell the difference?
- 4. Describe an experience in which you recognized the voice of Jesus in your own life.
- 5. Describe ways in which Jesus has watched over and protected you as your Shepherd.

## SERVANT, SERVANT OF GOD, MAN OF SORROWS

- 1. How does the passage from Isaiah fit or fail to fit with your image of Jesus?
- 2. When you think of Jesus' suffering, how does it make you feel about him, about yourself, about others?
- 3. Describe an experience in which someone served you? How did it affect you?
- 4. Describe experiences in which you have been able to serve someone else with the love of Christ.

### THE REDEEMER

- 1. If Christ has purchased you with his blood, what are the implications for your sense of self-worth? For your sense of the worth of others?
- 2. The passage from Revelation indicates that you were purchased *for* God. If that is so, what are the implications for your life?
- 3. Scripture says that Jesus has purchased members from every tribe and language and people and nations. Is that diversity represented in your denomination or your local church? If not, why not?

### I AM

- 1. Some scholars think that by saying "I AM WHO I AM" God was saying he would always be present with his people. How have you experienced God's faithful presence in your life?
- 2. What do you think it means to keep Jesus' word, and why does Jesus link it with never seeing death?
- 3. Why do you think the religious leaders responded to the "good news" as though it were "bad news"?