

2. The Four Gospels

- ◆ What we celebrate at Christmas is that Jesus was a **real baby**.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and lived among us." John 1:1; 14

- ◆ He grew as a normal child through the **developmental stages** of childhood.

- ◆ When he grew to be a man
 - He wept **real tears**
 - He got **hungry**
 - He got **thirsty**
 - He got **tired**
 - He **sweat profusely**
 - He **bled and died**

3. Other New Testament Writers

- ◆ The **Apostle Paul**

"For in Christ all the fullness of God lives in bodily form." Colossians 2:9

- ◆ The **Book of Acts**

Jesus' followers **pray to** and **worship** him as God.

- ◆ Titus definitely calls Jesus **God**. (Titus 2:13)

4. Jesus himself

- ◆ Jesus says, *"Before Abraham was, **I Am**."* (John 8:58)

- ◆ Jesus says, *"**I and the Father** are one."* (John 10:10)

- ◆ Jesus says, *"He who has seen me has seen **the Father**."* (John 14:9)

- ◆ Peter says, *"You are the Christ, the **Son of the Living God**."* (Matthew 16:16)

- ◆ Jesus claims he can **forgive sins**. (Mark 2:5)

- ◆ Jesus says he would **judge** human beings. (John 5:22)

- ◆ Jesus predicted he would **rise from the dead**.

- Jesus actually **died**
- He was **buried**
- The tomb was **empty**
- Jesus' followers saw him **alive**
- The disciples lives were **transformed**

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1) *The Da Vinci Code* claims that Jesus' followers considered him to be "a great and powerful man, but a *man* nonetheless" and that it wasn't until the fourth century that he was deified. If this is true, what are the implications for Christianity?

2) If Jesus really is the Son of God, then why would he have chosen to enter into human history, only to be tortured to death in the end? What would it take to have motivated you, if you were God, to do the same thing?

3) Some people find the idea that God came and lived among us very exciting and hopeful. Yet, history shows a widespread hostility to this belief. Why do you think his deity sparks such opposition?

4) What aspect of Jesus' divinity is difficult or troublesome for you to accept? Why?

5) If it is true that Jesus really is God in the flesh, what are some implications for *your* life today?

SEPARATING **FACT** from **FICTION**



Series: The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction?

Title: "Is Jesus the Son of God?" Pastor Dave Glesne, June 25, 2006

"Until 325 A.D., Jesus was viewed by his followers as a mortal prophet, a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal."

The Da Vinci Code

Question: "Is it true that nobody believed Jesus was divine until 300 years after his death?"

1. The Early Church Fathers

- ◆ Ignatius: "God Himself was manifested in human form" (AD 105)
- ◆ Clement: "It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as of God" (AD 150)
- ◆ Justin Martyr: "Being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God"; "Both God and Lord of hosts"; "The Father of the universe has a Son. And He...is even God" (AD 160)
- ◆ Irenaeus: "Our Lord, and God, and Savior, and King"; "He is God, for the name Emmanuel indicates this" (AD 180)
- ◆ Tertullian: "Christ our God" (AD 200)
- ◆ Origen: "No one should be offended that the Savior is also God" (AD 225)
- ◆ Novatian: "He is not only man, but God also" (AD 235)
- ◆ Cyprian: "He is not only man, but God also" (AD 250)
- ◆ Methodius: "He truly was and is...with God, and being God" (AD 290)
- ◆ Lactantius: "We believe Him to be God" (AD 304)
- ◆ Arnobius: "Christ performed all these miracles...the duty of Divinity" (AD 305)