

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
**“Jesus”**  
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation, Davie, FL

**Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting** (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

**Opening Words:**

“The value, for a Buddhist, comes not with proving whether He did exist. His significance lies in the lessons of the Jesus story. The scholar in me keeps going back to wondering if He existed, but as a Buddhist I say: Values are more important than flesh-and-blood facts. If people say He existed, then He existed, because the lessons of the life that we are told about are important indeed.”

- Kevin, O’Neil, President of the American Buddhist Movement

**Check-in/Sharing**

**Topic/Reading:**

“But who do you say that I am?” Jesus’ question: Matthew 16:15

The question was posed by Jesus himself. Later, speaking of himself but also, clearly, about divinity, Paul attempted an answer: “All things to all men.”

He was right then. He was right today.

To some, Jesus is the son of God, the anointed one, the Christ--- born to a virgin 2, 000 years ago. To others Jesus is just a man, albeit a man who inspired, through his teachings and exemplary life, several faiths now incorporated into Christianity. And to still others, he’s little more than a myth. Maybe he lived, they say, but his stature as a great and transcendent human being is an invention of Paul and, then, the Gospel writers, who needed a charismatic anchor for their new churches.

But, whether idea or man, Jesus is a model that encourages goodness, a mirror that reflects our hopes. We Jesus as many different people--- dutiful son, ascetic, revolutionary, sage, martyr--- depending on our personal beliefs, and, indeed, our personal needs .

- Vivette Poges, Joshua Simon, and Robert Sullivan.

**Questions for consideration:**

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Did the gospel writer have a sense of humor when he asked that question, guessing that the future would come up with so many different interpretations?
- What are people’s experiences with Jesus given their differing religious upbringings?
- Which of the reading’s categories comes closest to expressing their own beliefs?

## **Likes and Wishes/Feedback**

### **Closing Words:**

Whether Jesus was sent from heaven or not, died on the cross or not, ascended or not,---- Jesus is alive in our time. To believers and nonbelievers alike, Jesus matters. Still matters. He long has. He always will.

- Vivette Porges, Joshua Simon, and Robert Sullivan

Amen. May you live in blessing.