

# GOD'S ANSWERS: SESSION THREE

*A Study on Worldviews and the Augsburg Confession*

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, Your Word is truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word even as the evil one seeks to whisper his lies into our ears. Keep us with Your Son, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

## God's revealed truth — Augsburg Confession Article III

Read aloud:

“Also they teach that *the Word*, that is, *the Son of God*, did assume *the human nature* in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably conjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men. He also descended into hell, and truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and quicken them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ shall openly come again to judge the quick and the dead, etc., according to the Apostles’ Creed.”<sup>1</sup>

### 1. How is this truth undercut in our world?

After allowing some time for answers to be offered, consider how this truth is opposed in these examples:

- Play the clip from the movie “The Da Vinci Code” that can be found at [youtu.be/KI56LyJTH5M](https://youtu.be/KI56LyJTH5M). Note how this clip suggests that the teaching that Jesus was the Son of God — that He is divine — was created out of political expediency rather than the fact of Jesus’ resurrection which actually caused the apostles and Early Church to confess Jesus’ divinity.
- Play the clip from “Jesus Christ Superstar” that can be found at [youtu.be/pqoeM18vCaU](https://youtu.be/pqoeM18vCaU). Note how this clip uses a song by Judas to suggest that Jesus did not teach or believe Himself to be God at the beginning of His ministry but came to believe this because of people’s love for Him.

- Talk about how many other religions will give Jesus some place in their religion, but that they all deny Him status as God. Islam teaches He is a prophet. Buddhism will say that Jesus’s teachings are in many ways similar to the Buddha and therefore perhaps will call Jesus wise. However, to claim that He is God is forbidden by all other religions.

You are also encouraged to explore things in culture which more known to those you are teaching that fit the same mold.

### 2. How is this truth revealed in the Scriptures? Why does it matter?

Read the following Scriptures that speak about Jesus being God. The importance of this teaching is far reaching. Only if He is God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, can He be born sinless and therefore be the perfect sacrifice for sins. Only if He is God can He forgive sins as he did. Only if He is God can He fulfill all the prophecies that promised that the Messiah would be God himself. If He is not God, Jesus is a liar based on His own words and actions.

- John 8:58–59: “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”
- Isaiah 9:6: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

## CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, Jesus is your eternally begotten Son. He was born perfect and died sacrificially for us. Grant us always to live in Your Kingdom through Your grace. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> *Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church: German-Latin-English* (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia, 1921).