

Conversation Starters

- What questions about Jesus did you have as you started to explore Christianity?
- Where did you look for those answers?

Discuss

Jesus’ life has intrigued people for a long time, and for good reason. Much of what we think we know about Jesus’ personal life has been shaped by our culture and environment.

- What have you learned about Jesus through culture?
- How does this compare to what you know to be true?

While the Bible does not say a lot about his personal life compared to his ministry, it does tell us some things. For example, we do know his ethnicity, where he grew up, and much about his native culture, that give us some clues about his appearance and living conditions.

*“...There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.”
(Isaiah 53:2 NLT)*

*“Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord – ‘either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.’”
(Luke 2:22,24 NLT)*

- How do these passages shape how you think about Jesus?
- Have you ever reflected on these aspects of Jesus that we do know from Scripture?

One of the more intriguing topics of Jesus’ personal life surrounds his family. The Bible does tell us that he had siblings (Luke 2). While there have been some other writings that are more extensive, there is no historical evidence to date that backs them up.

- As we continue to learn about Jesus and Christianity, have you learned how to tell the difference between reliable and unreliable sources?
- How would you caution someone who is exploring the Christian faith regarding unreliable resources?

Next Steps

Spend some time reflecting on what we do know about Jesus. Invite someone you know to submit a question they might have about Jesus, but have always been too afraid to ask.

Pray

Father, thank you for Jesus and the life he lived. Thank you for a place where we can ask questions and wrestle with what Scripture tells us. And for what it does not say, give us wisdom to discern between reliable and unreliable resources, and help us to trust you with what we have been given.