

GRADE 10
January / Images of Jesus
Home / Online Plan

Open with prayer:

Loving God, You sent your Son, Jesus, into this world to be an example to us, that we might be transformed into the image of his love.

Please give us knowledge, courage and willing hearts to be true disciples.

With God's grace may we more fully believe in Jesus, accept what he says and follow his Gospel message, allowing Christ's love to conquer us! We ask this humbly in your name. Amen

****You will be asked to include your answers to some of the following questions on the Reflecting and Responding form at the end of this lesson.*

A. Here's a brief way to test your IQ about Jesus' identity. Briefly answer the following questions. Often your first impression is more valuable than long reflection. There are no wrong answers.

- What do you think Jesus looked like?
- How tall was he?
- How much did he weigh?
- What color were his eyes?
- What color was his hair?
- Did he have a beard?
- Was he muscular?
- What were some of his mannerisms?
- How did his voice sound?

Most images of Jesus follow a general model: tall, white male with long locks and flowing robe. Recent research shows that Jesus was probably short, standing roughly 5 foot 5 inches tall. This image is based on skeletal remains from people found in Judea, a region in ancient Palestine, and Egyptian areas during the time Jesus lived. Additionally, people living in Judea and Egypt during that time had brown eyes, black hair and olive skin, which means Jesus doesn't fit the white European archetype.

Historical texts, portraits and remains also suggest that Jesus likely kept his hair and beard short for hygienic reasons—namely, to keep lice away. And when it comes to his garments, it appears that Jesus' plain tunic was more ragged than pristine, as often shown in images. The point of these images was never to show Jesus as a man, but to make theological points about who Jesus was as Christ (King, Judge) and divine Son. There were meant to tell us something about Jesus. They have evolved over time to the standard "Jesus" we recognize.

Jesus is just really someone who looked very poor. In the Gospels, Jesus is not described, either as tall or short, good-looking or plain, muscular or frail. We are told his age is "about 30 years of age" (Luke 3:23), but there is nothing that dramatically distinguishes him, at least at first sight.

B. Rank the following New Testament descriptions of Jesus from the most appealing (1) to the least appealing (8):

- _____ Lord and Christ
- _____ Authoritative teacher
- _____ Lord of Lords and King of kings
- _____ Suffering messiah
- _____ New high priest
- _____ Saving prophet
- _____ God's Son, sent for salvation
- _____ Judge of the living and the dead

Which do you see as positive images?

Which do you see as negative images?

Have your perceptions of these qualities changed over time?

C. On each line of the chart below, there are two different words describing Jesus. Circle the word which you think most applies to Jesus as you imagine him to be.

Gentle	Firm
Humorous	Stern
Reserved	Talkative
Literal	Figurative
Forgiving	Punishing
Impulsive	Cautious
Punctual	Leisurely
Sociable	Detached
Compassionate	Unsympathetic
Passionate	Controlled
Thinking	Feeling
Systematic	Spontaneous
Determined	Hesitant
Critical	Uncritical
Orderly	Careless
Just	Merciful
Calm	Lively
Wary	Trustful
Priestly	Lay
Concrete	Abstract
Jewish	Christian
Active	Passive

D. Use padlet to choose an image of Jesus that you feel best personifies Jesus as you see him.

<https://padlet.com/MOTVformation/7a7h3xps4hz8xn86>

(If you've never used padlet, see last page for directions)

- Why did you choose this image?
- How does this image express your understanding of Jesus?
- Does this image raise any questions for you about who Jesus is?

Take a few moments to reflect on these two questions.

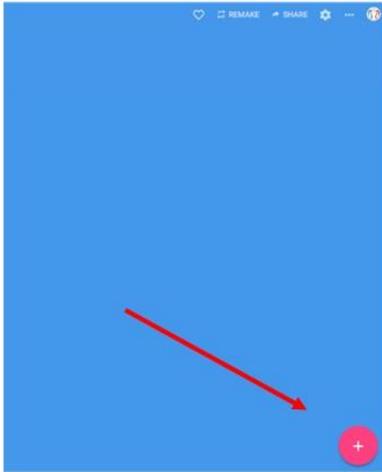
- Have you ever felt like you were with people that had the wrong image of you?
- How have you risen above it?

To summarize this activity:

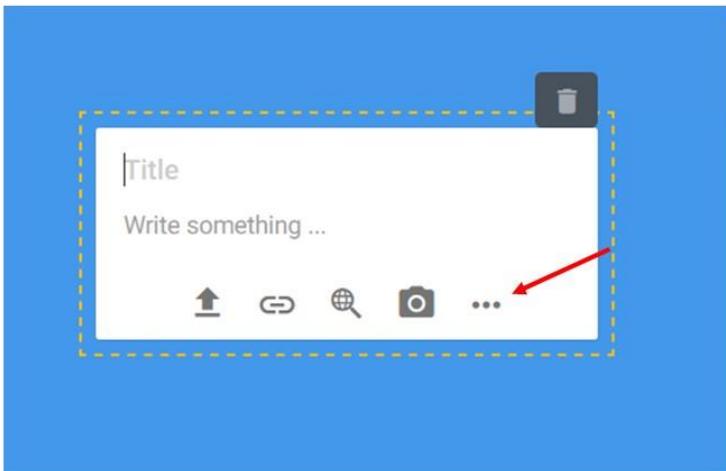
- We really don't know what Jesus actually looked like
- Many of the images we have of Jesus were created to teach us something about him
- Our image(s) of Jesus affect what we believe about Jesus and how we relate to Jesus
- We may have incorrect images of others. It is up to us to overcome our perceptions of others by being open and nonjudgmental towards them, "seeing Christ in others."
- Others may also have inaccurate images of us, but we are able to rise above those images by being our true selves and "being Christ for others."

Go to the [Reflecting and Responding](#) form, answer the questions, and submit

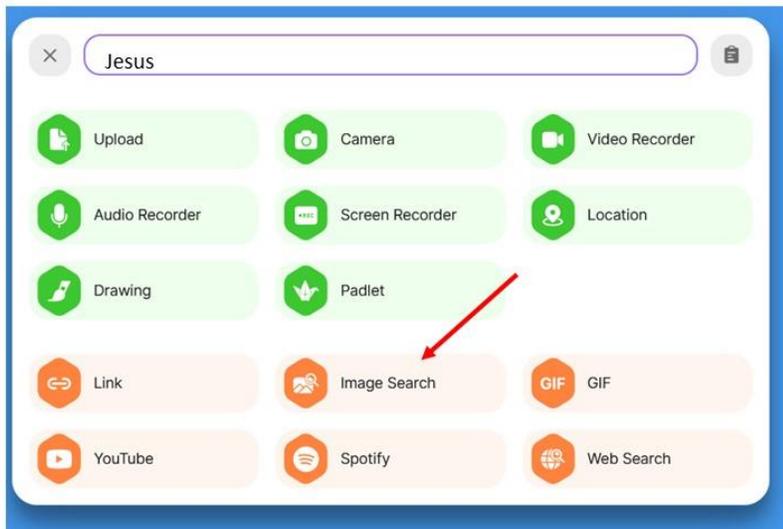
CLOSE BY PRAYING THE OUR FATHER.



Click on the + in the lower right hand corner of your screen, or double click anywhere to bring up the next box...



Click on the three dots on the lower right of this box



Click on "image search" and type "Jesus" in the search box. Scroll through images until you find one that appeals to you, then click on that image and it will be posted to the padlet. Include your reason for choosing that image in the text box above the picture.