

## **Lesson 1 – Who Do You Say That I Am ?**

**The Life of Man, to Know and Love God;** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him **share in his own blessed life**. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. (CCC 1)

“**Faith and reason** are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart the desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that by knowing and loving God, men and women can come to the fullness of the truth about themselves” (JP II)

**Faith** is man's obedient response to God's revelation. By faith man accepts the truth of Christ's revelation which is guaranteed by God. Because an act of faith involves freely entrusting oneself to God and freely assenting to His revelation, it has a moral dimension. Preceded by the gift of grace and assisted by the Holy Spirit, **it is an act of both the mind and the will**.

**Reason** - Man can know that God exists by reflecting on creation. As we read in the Book of Wisdom, “From the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator” ( Wis. 13: 5, cf., Rom. 1: 20, n. 19). “If human beings fail to recognize God as the creator of all, it is not because they lack the means to, but because their free will and their sinfulness place an impediment in the way.”

**Grace** is a participation in the life of God (CCC 1997).

### **Weekly Reading Assignment and Reflection:**

Chapter 1, My Soul Longs for You, O God

Chapter 5, I Believe in God

Chapter 7, The Good News: God Has Sent His Son

### **If Jesus Came to Your House Today and Asked You This Question**

*“ Who do you Say That I Am? ”*

**What Would Your Answer Be ?**

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## Talk Notes

### Lesson 1 - Who do you Say That I Am ?

1. How do we know God exist?
  - a. Faith and Reason
  - b. The hints around us
  - c. Faith can never cheat us
2. Who do you Say that I Am ?
  - a. Amazed and Afraid – Who is this man ?
  - b. The Messiah -Jesus Both God and Human
    - i. He would gather his people
    - ii. He would cleanse the temple
    - iii. He would overcome the enemies of Israel
    - iv. He would reign as Lord over the nations
  - c. Jesus compels us to make a choice