

the gospel of

MARK

A Life on Mission

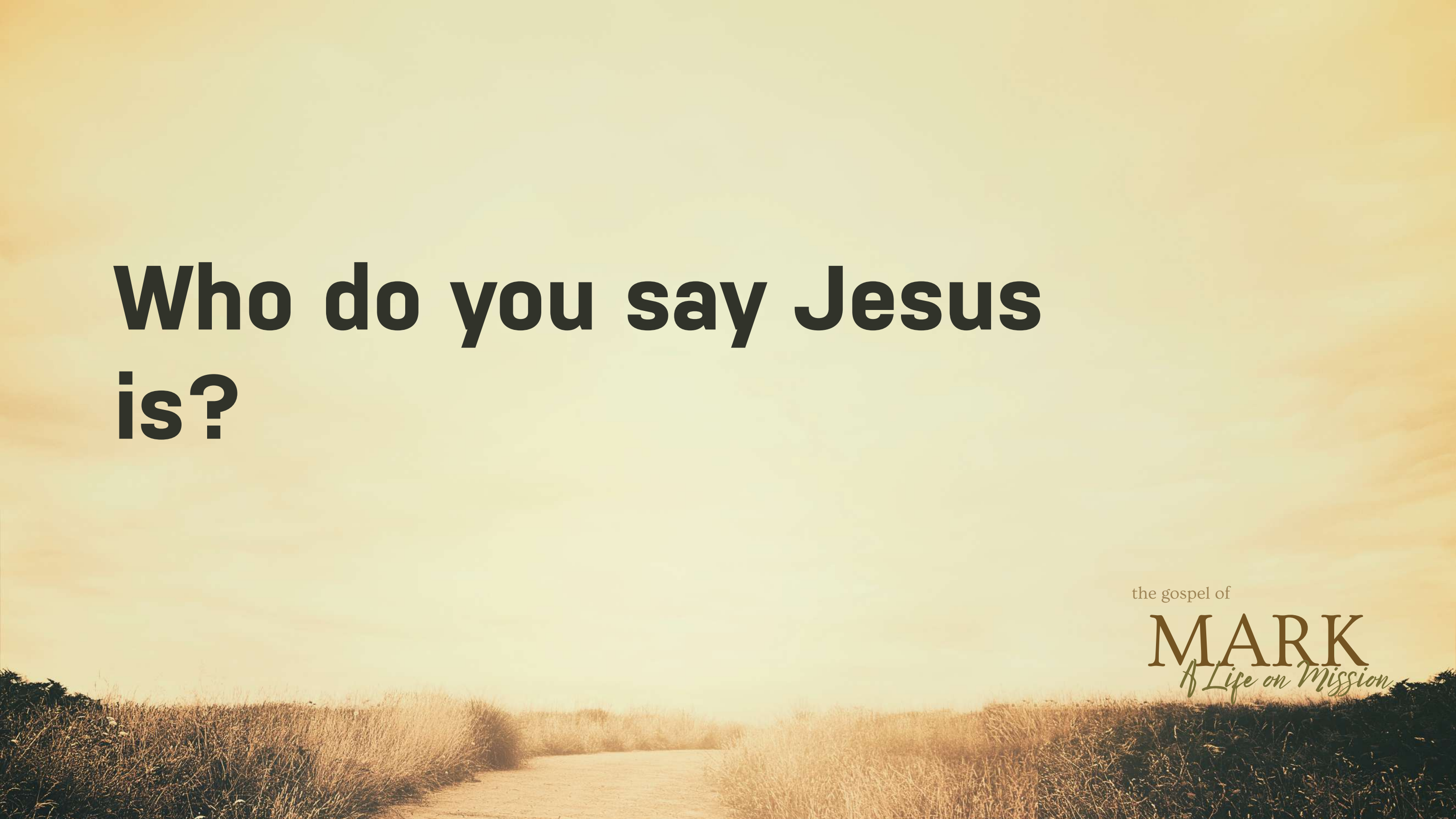


Mark 8:27-30

Matthew 16:13-20

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Who do you say Jesus
is?

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An aerial perspective of the ancient city of Caesarea Philippi, nestled at the base of a steep, forested mountain. The city is characterized by its dense collection of buildings with terracotta-tiled roofs. A prominent red stone wall with battlements runs along the left side of the city. In the foreground, a large, semi-circular amphitheater is visible. The sun is rising in the upper left corner, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is a mix of soft pinks and blues. The mountain in the background is covered in lush green trees, with a rocky cliff face visible on the right side. Several key locations are labeled with white text and brackets: 'CAESAREA PHILIPPI' at the top center, '1st Century AD' just below it, 'GROTTO OF PAN' in the middle with a line pointing to a cave entrance, and 'BANIAS' on the right side near some ruins.

[CAESAREA PHILIPPI]

1st Century AD

[GROTTO OF PAN]

[BANIAS]



CAESAREA PHILIPPI – PANEAS (BANIAS)

The Greek god, Pan

The Greek god, Pan, was half man and half goat. In mythology, he was the son of the messenger god, Hermes, and he was the god of nature, the wild, shepherds and flocks.

His sudden, unseen presence or loud shouts in the forest could cause terror and confusion. This is from where the word PANIC comes.

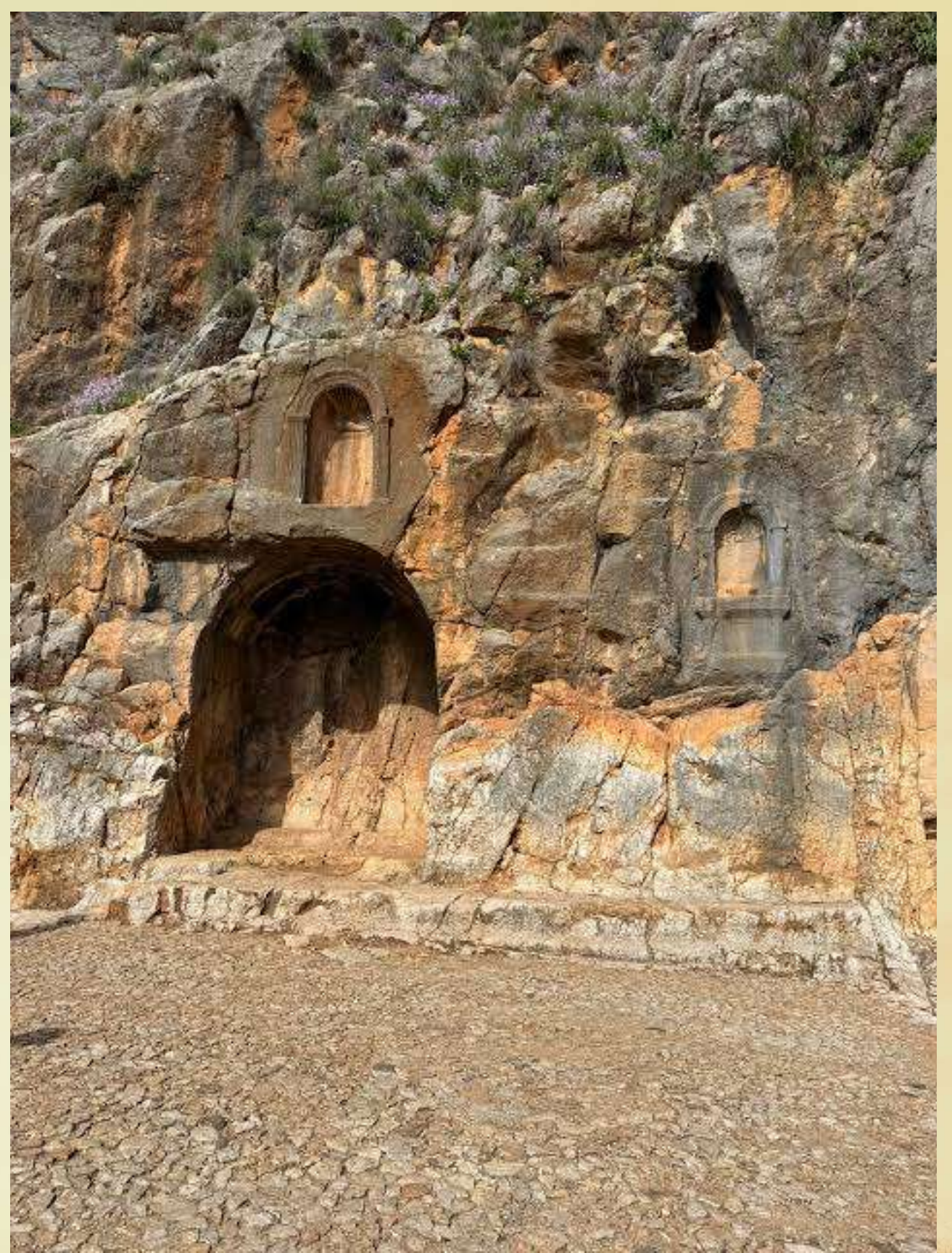


The Greek god, Pan

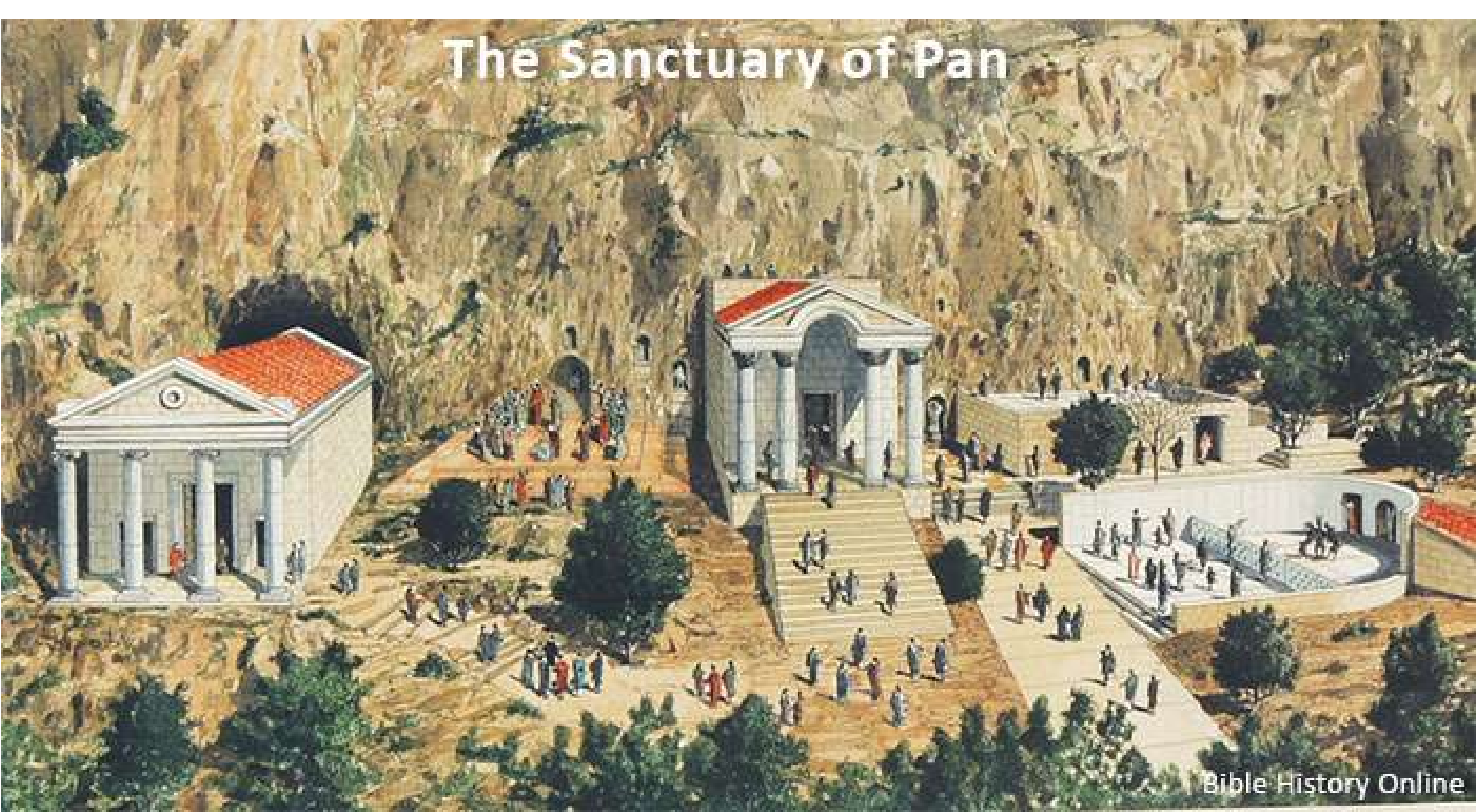
Instead of large temples, people worshipped him outdoors in natural caves, grottoes, and groves.

To the pagan mind, the cave at Caesarea Philippi created a gate to the underworld where fertility gods lived during the winter and returned to earth each spring.

It was believed the cave was an access point or "GATE" to the underworld – the gate Hell!



The Sanctuary of Pan





GROTTO of
PAN

An aerial photograph of the Grotto of Pan in Banias, Israel. The image shows a large, dark cave entrance on the left, surrounded by rocky terrain. A dirt path leads from the bottom left towards the cave, with a group of people walking along it. To the right of the path, there are ancient stone ruins, including walls and foundations. The text 'GROTTO of PAN' is overlaid in large, white, 3D letters. The word 'GROTTO' is in a smaller font, and 'of' is in a very small font. 'PAN' is the largest word. The ruins are made of light-colored stone and are partially overgrown with vegetation. The overall scene is a mix of natural rock formations and ancient human-made structures.

ancient
BANIAS

Who do you say Jesus is?

1. It is a CONTROVERSIAL question.

Mark 8:27-28

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Who do you say Jesus is?

1. It is a **CONTROVERSIAL** question.

Mark 8:27-28

2. It is a **LOADED** question.

Mark 8:29, Matthew 16:16-18, Acts 4:8-12, John 8:24, 14:6,
1 Timothy 2:5-6

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Who do you say Jesus is?

1. It is a CONTROVERSIAL question.

Mark 8:27-28

2. It is a LOADED question.

Mark 8:29, Matthew 16:16-18, Acts 4:8-12, John 8:24, 14:6,
1 Timothy 2:5-6

3. Requires a PERSONAL response.

1 John 5:11-12

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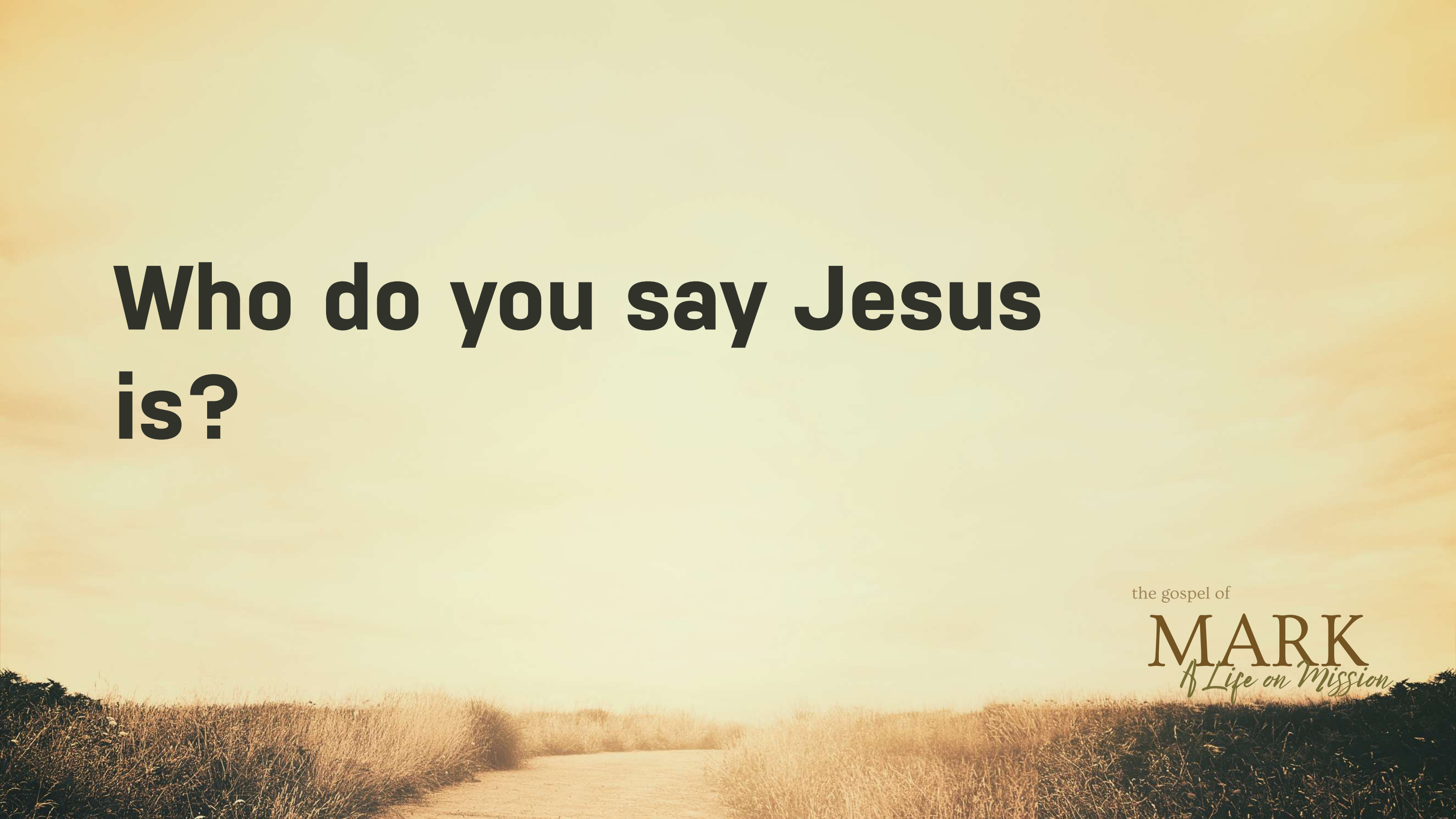
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1 John 5:11-12

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

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Who do you say Jesus is?

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Your Challenge:

Have you responded yet to God's offer of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Jesus? If not, is TODAY your day to do so?

Spend some time meditating on Mark 8:31-38 this week in preparation for next Sunday. Let the Holy Spirit show you what this means for you.

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What does it mean to live on mission?

It means to live your everyday life as a divine assignment.

It's accepting the fact that you are God's missionary right where you live, work, learn and play.

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