

Scripture Passage: Luke 20: 41-44

Story Point: Do you know what a riddle is? A riddle is a puzzle or joke in which you ask a question that seems to be nonsense, but actually has a clever or amusing answer. Here are a few examples:

Q: What can you catch but not throw?

A: A cold.

Q: What starts with a “p,” ends with an “e,” and has thousands of letters?

A: A post office

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day were constantly trying to trap Jesus to discredit him and his teachings. They would ask difficult questions that they hoped he would answer incorrectly or not be able to answer at all. They hoped people would no longer follow him. After patiently answering many of these questions, Jesus turns around and poses his own difficult question in the form of a riddle to these leaders: How could the Messiah be both the son of David and David’s divine Lord?

The Bible does not provide an answer from the religious leaders, and Jesus left the question open. The only possible answer is that Jesus, the Messiah, was both fully God, making him Lord, and fully human, a descendent or son of David. For the religious leaders to provide this answer would mean that they would have to acknowledge that Jesus is who he said he is – the Messiah.

(thoughts and some wording taken from Wellspring Christian Ministries website)

Discussion Questions:

- What conclusion do you think Jesus wants the people listening to understand when he asks how the Messiah can be both David’s son and his Lord?
- Why do you think Jesus asks the question in the way that he does, in the form of a riddle?
- How can we apply this truth about Jesus to our own lives?

