

EXPLORE



Explore the Christian message in
John's Gospel

JESUS CHRIST - GOD ON EARTH

This is a short series of 5 bible studies and discussion questions to help people EXPLORE what Christianity is all about. It uses John's gospel – an account of Jesus life and teaching.

Jesus Christ - God on earth

When you think of God what comes to mind?

How would you work out what God is like?

John 1:1-5

Which of these ideas about God are new to you?

What do you think of Jesus being God?

How does the light and darkness thing work?

John 1:14

We know about God because he has come to earth as the man Jesus.
What do you think of this idea?

John 1:10-13

Why do people not acknowledge Jesus as God?

How do we fix this up?

Discussion:

What would life be like without God?

What do you think Christianity is all about?

Reading for next time: John Chapters 1 – 2

THE JESUS YOU NEVER KNEW

What different images of Jesus do people have today?

John 2:1-11

What surprises you in Jesus' actions here?

What is he really trying to show?

John 2:12-25

Why is Jesus dismayed by these traders?

How do Jesus actions fit with your impression of him?

How does this event challenge current views of Jesus?

In what sense is Jesus now the temple?

What are the implications for church?

What has been your experience of church?

Reading for next time: John Chapter 5:19-30

GUILT: DENIAL & JUDGMENT

The world is wonderful but...

but... why is it not so wonderful at the same time?

Why is it broken?

Light & Dark

John 1:5 – How does the light / dark image work?

John 3:19-21 Why is the world in darkness?

We are essentially in denial of God.

So what is the end result?

John 5:24-30

How do you react to the ideas of judgment here?

What is the basis of judgment?

John 5:22-23 – not honouring God

How does this fit with the darkness idea from Chapter 1?

Is God's judgment just?

The punishment fits the crime:

We told God to get lost; he will tell us to get lost.

Are you ready to 'meet your maker'?

How would you go face to face with God?

Is there any hope?

See **John 5:24**

Reading for next time: John Chapter 3:1-21

SACRIFICE

What do you think is the message of Christianity?

John 3: 1-8

What is going on here?

Why does Nicodemus come at night?

John 3:9-15

Where do we find out about Christianity?

John 3:16-21

How does God 'give' his Son (Jesus)?

(How does this happen? See **John 6:51**)

Why are we going to perish?

What do you think of the verdict in **John 3:19**?

How do we get this gift of eternal life? (see **3:16**)

What do you think is the difference between:
a. **belief**, b. **faith**, and c. **trust**.

You have to have all 3!

Believe in Jesus in your head.

Faith in Jesus in your heart.

Trust in Jesus with your life.

What do you think of this idea?

Reading for next time: John 12:12-36

LOYALTY: HONOUR AND LOVE

John 12:25-26

How does the 'hate / love' life conundrum work in this quote?

How do you serve and follow Jesus?

It is basically declaring your loyalty to Jesus as God and King. What do you think that involves?

Jesus explains it in:

John 5: 23 How do we honour Jesus?

John 13:34 How do we love one another?

(How does this contrast to the popular idea of love?)

Looking back at **John 3:16**,
How would you summarise what Christianity is about?

Essentially Christianity is about:

Guilt – we are guilty of living in denial of God.

Sacrifice – Jesus death in our place.

Loyalty – to Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Our response is therefore ABC!:

Admit we are Guilty.

Believe in Jesus for eternal life.

Commit our life in Loyalty to him.

How do you feel about doing that?

Further Reading:

John 4:1-42 – Jesus the Water of Life

John 18 to 20 – The crucifixion narrative