



Let Me Tell You About Jesus

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SESSION ONE

The Goodness of God

Study 1 — Who is God and Why is He Good?

Psalm 145:8–9

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Romans 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment to pause. Let your heart settle. The world rushes on, but here, in this moment, we slow down to reflect on something beautiful—the goodness of God.

Have you ever watched the sun rise over the ocean, painting the sky with colours too rich for words? Have you ever heard the laughter of a child or felt the warmth of a friend's embrace? These moments whisper a truth deep within us: we were made for something good. And that goodness comes from God.

The Bible tells us that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love (Psalm 145:8). He is not distant. He is not harsh. He is not indifferent to your life. From the vastness of the universe to the smallest details of your heart, He sees, He knows, and He cares.

Yet many of us struggle to believe this. We see suffering in the world. We feel pain in our own lives. Can a good God really be present in a broken world? As we continue this journey, we will explore that question. But for today, let's simply begin with this: God is good, and He desires to be known by you.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Where have you seen glimpses of God's goodness in your life, even in small ways?

Supplementary Material — Study 1

You might need to start with the question What is God? Or Who is God? That's a great question—and a foundational one.

When people say “god” (small g), they often mean a vague spiritual force or one of many possible deities. But when Christians talk about “God” (capital G), we mean something very specific: the one true, personal, eternal Creator of everything. Not a vague energy, not a distant force, but a real being—who knows us, made us, and wants to be known by us.

So, what is God? God is not a thing within the universe. He is the source of everything. He's not just the biggest or smartest being around—He's the necessary being behind all existence. Without Him, nothing else would exist.

And who is God? Christians believe God is loving, just, all-powerful, all-knowing, and deeply relational. He is not silent or hidden—He has revealed Himself to us in many ways, but most clearly through Jesus.

That's the starting point. We don't claim to know everything about God, but we do believe He has made Himself known. And the good news is this: you don't have to figure it all out at once. God wants to walk with you as you ask ques-

tions, seek truth, and discover who He really is.

What are the arguments for the existence of God?

THE DESIGN ARGUMENT: ORDER THAT POINTS TO INTELLIGENCE

Think of the human eye. Or the way your heart beats over 100,000 times a day without your asking. Consider the way Earth is perfectly positioned for life—too close to the sun, we’d burn; too far, we’d freeze.

When we see design, we naturally think of a designer. A watch implies a watch-maker. A symphony implies a composer. And creation implies a Creator.

The Bible puts it this way:

Romans 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

THE FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT: A BEGINNING NEEDS A BEGINNER

Everything that begins has a cause. The universe had a beginning—so it, too, must have a cause. Not just any cause, but one beyond time and space.

Science may explain how the universe works, but it can't explain why it exists in the first place. That's where God comes in—not as a gap in knowledge, but as the foundation of it.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

He is not just a part of the story. He is the Author of it.

WHY THE BIBLE? WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO IT?

You might be wondering: Why are we using the Bible so much in this course? Isn't it just an old religious book? That's a fair question. And it's one we don't want to skip past.

The Bible isn't just one book—it's a collection of 66 books, written over about 1,500 years by more than 40 authors from different backgrounds, languages, and places. Yet across all that time and variety, it tells one unified story: a story about a good God, a broken world, and the hope of restoration through Jesus. But why treat it as authoritative—as something worth trusting?

Here's why:

1. The Bible is historically grounded.

Its stories are set in real places, involving real people, and backed up by archaeology, history, and manuscripts in a way no other ancient religious text is. It wasn't written in secret or by a single individual with a vision—it unfolded in public history.

2. It claims to be God's Word.

That's a bold claim. But over and over, the Bible presents itself not just as human opinion, but as God revealing Himself. 2 Timothy 3:16 says it is "God-breathed." If that's true—even possibly true—it's worth paying attention to.

3. It speaks with unmatched moral and spiritual clarity.

From its radical vision of justice and mercy to its call to love even enemies, the Bible has shaped our world like no other book. Modern ideas like human rights, dignity, equality, and compassion all trace back to biblical roots. The fruit of this book speaks volumes.

4. It points consistently to Jesus.

The Old Testament sets the stage. The New Testament tells His story. Jesus Himself treated the Scriptures as authoritative—and rose from the dead (a claim we'll explore). If Jesus really rose, then what He says about Scripture

matters.

5. It has transforming power.

Millions of people across time and cultures testify that the Bible has changed their lives. Not because they read it like a textbook, but because they met the living God through its pages. It reads us, as much as we read it.

So, do you have to believe the Bible is true right now? No. But here's the invitation: read it with an open mind. Consider it seriously. Test what it says. You may find it's not just a book full of answers—but the beginning of a life-changing conversation.

Study 2 — Why is the World Broken?

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Genesis 3:1–7

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

There is a longing in all of us for something better. We ache for peace in a world full of conflict. We long for justice where there is oppression. We seek love in the face of loneliness. Something deep inside us knows that this world is not as it should be.

The Bible tells us why. In the beginning, God created the world to be whole, full of life, full of joy. But something happened—sin entered the world. Sin is more than just bad behaviour. It is a turning away from God, a breaking of the connection we were meant to have with Him. In Genesis 3, we see the first humans choosing their own way over God's, and that choice fractured the world.

Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” That means this brokenness isn't just out there in the world—it's inside us, too. We all feel it. We all contribute to it. And we all need a way back to wholeness.

The good news is that God has not left us in our brokenness. He has made a way to heal and restore what's been lost. That's what we'll explore ahead.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Have you ever felt that the world—or your own life—was not as it should be? How does that affect your view of God?

Supplementary Material — Study 2

1. Free Will Defence (Alvin Plantinga)

Core idea: God created humans with free will so they could truly love and choose good — but that freedom also makes real evil possible.

Why it matters: A world without moral freedom would be robotic, not relational. Evil is the cost of genuine choice.

Apologetic use: “God didn’t create evil — He created freedom, and we misuse it.”

2. Soul-Making Theodicy (John Hick)

Core idea: God uses the challenges of life (including suffering) to shape people into mature, virtuous beings.

Why it matters: Without hardship, there would be no opportunity for growth in courage, compassion, patience, or hope.

Apologetic use: “God doesn’t promise a pain-free life, but He promises purpose in pain.”

3. Privation Theory of Evil (Augustine)

Core idea: Evil is not a created thing, but a lack or corruption of good — like a hole in a garment.

Why it matters: God made everything good; evil is the result of turning away from that good (e.g., sin, selfishness).

Apologetic use: “God made the world good, but we introduced a tear — and He’s stitching it back together in Christ.”

4. Greater-Good Arguments

Core idea: Some suffering may be necessary to bring about greater goods we can’t yet see (like redemption, perseverance, empathy).

Why it matters: We often don’t understand the whole story. The cross itself is the ultimate example of suffering producing a greater good.

Apologetic use: “God can bring beauty from ashes — and He already has at the cross.”

5. A Broken World That Groans (Romans 8)

Core idea: The world is fallen, not as it was meant to be. Creation itself

groans under the weight of sin and waits for renewal.

Why it matters: This view holds suffering in tension with hope — acknowledging that things are not right, but they will be.

Apologetic use: “Jesus entered this groaning world not to explain away suffering, but to suffer with us — and then to defeat it.”

6. Mystery and Trust (Job, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah 55:8–9)

Core idea: Not all suffering has an answer we can grasp now. Sometimes, the best response is not explanation but trust in God’s character.

Why it matters: Honesty about mystery makes faith more credible, not less.

Apologetic use: “We may not understand all of the ‘why,’ but we know the ‘Who’ — and He weeps with us.”

WHAT DO OTHER RELIGIONS SAY ABOUT SUFFERING?

Comparing worldviews can help highlight the uniqueness of the Christian perspective:

1. Buddhism

Suffering (dukkha) is central to Buddhist teaching. It arises from desire and attachment, and the goal is to eliminate it through the Eightfold Path and ultimately escape the cycle of rebirth (nirvana). Suffering is seen more as an illusion to transcend than a personal tragedy to be healed.

2. Hinduism

Suffering is often linked to karma—the idea that actions in past lives result in consequences now. It's part of a cosmic justice system. Liberation (moksha) comes by realising one's true self and escaping the cycle of reincarnation.

3. Islam

Suffering is allowed by Allah and can be a test, a purification, or a means of drawing one closer to God. Submission (Islam) to the will of God, even in hardship, is key. God's purposes may not always be understood, but He is always just and merciful.

4. Atheism/Naturalism

From a purely materialist view, suffering is simply the result of chance or evolutionary processes—there is no deeper meaning, only what we assign to it ourselves.

THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

Only Christianity says this: The world is broken because of sin—but God entered into the brokenness to rescue us.

God does not just offer comfort—He offers redemption. Suffering is real, but it is not the final word. Jesus came to restore what was lost. That's what we will explore in the days ahead.

Study 3 — The Consequences of Sin: The Need for Salvation

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1–5

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Imagine a relationship that has been broken. A friendship shattered by betrayal. A family divided by unspoken words. Distance grows where once there was closeness, and no matter how hard we try, we can't undo the damage. This is

what sin does in our relationship with God. It creates separation.

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Sin is not just about breaking rules—it leads to spiritual death, a life disconnected from God.

But here is the hope: God offers a gift. We do not have to stay in our separation. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, “But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

We cannot earn this salvation. We do not have to fix ourselves first. Salvation is a gift. A gift freely given, waiting to be received.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What does it mean to you that salvation is not something to be earned, but a gift to be received?

Supplementary Material — Study 3

HOW DIFFERENT RELIGIONS SAY WE FIND SALVATION

1. Islam

Salvation by: Submitting to Allah and obeying the Five Pillars (prayer, fasting, almsgiving, profession of faith, pilgrimage).

No assurance: Even devout Muslims say “Inshallah” (if God wills) when speaking of salvation.

Core concept: Obedience and moral effort.

Emotional tone: Striving and uncertainty — salvation is hoped for, not assured.

Gospel contrast: “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” (Titus 3:5)

2. Hinduism

Salvation by: Escaping the cycle of rebirth (samsara) through karma, devotion, and spiritual knowledge.

Multiple paths: Bhakti (devotion), Karma (action), Jnana (knowledge), Raja (meditation).

Core concept: Liberation (moksha) from illusion through spiritual discipline.

Emotional tone: Cyclical effort and ritual striving, often fatalistic.

Gospel contrast: “People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27) “Christ redeemed us... by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:13)

3. Buddhism

Salvation by: Achieving nirvana — the end of suffering and desire — through the Noble Eightfold Path.

No god or saviour: Emphasis is on self-effort, detachment, and mindfulness.

Core concept: Enlightenment through inner discipline.

Emotional tone: Detachment, self-effort, the extinguishing of desire.

Gospel contrast: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I

will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) “Not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:9)

4. Judaism (non-Messianic)

Salvation by: Faithfulness to the covenant, moral living, and obedience to the Law (Torah).

Modern views: Range from ethical living to hope in future redemption.

Core concept: Righteousness through covenant loyalty.

Emotional tone: Hopeful yet incomplete — awaiting redemption.

Gospel contrast: “No one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.” (Romans 3:20)

5. Christian Science / New Age / Spiritual Movements

Salvation by: Realising your inner divinity or spiritual potential.

Common themes: Mind over matter, universal love, positive energy, self-actualisation.

Core concept: Enlightenment, harmony, or awakening through inner knowledge.

Emotional tone: Positive-sounding, but vague and self-reliant.

Gospel contrast: “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” (Proverbs 14:12) “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

6. Mormonism (LDS)

Salvation by: Faith in Jesus, baptism, good works, temple rituals, and adherence to church authority.

Exaltation: The highest level of salvation includes becoming like God.

Core concept: Jesus + obedience to LDS teachings.

Emotional tone: Earnest, but performance-based with added religious burden.

Gospel contrast: “By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” (Hebrews 10:14) “If righteousness could be gained

through the law, Christ died for nothing!” (Galatians 2:21)

7. Biblical Christianity

Salvation by: Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Key verse: “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves...” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Core concept: We cannot earn salvation. Jesus accomplished it through His death and resurrection. We simply receive it by trusting in Him.

SUMMARY

Every other religion says, “Do.” The gospel says, “Done.”

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

SESSION TWO

The Problem of Sin & The Rescue Plan

Session 3.5 — Who Is Jesus?

Luke 1:30–33

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 7:22

22 So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Before we can truly understand how Jesus is the way, we must first ask: Who is He?

Jesus is not just a teacher or a prophet. He is the centrepiece of the Christian faith—the one who brings God near. From the very beginning, the Bible introduces Jesus as someone set apart. Born of a virgin, a descendant of King David, foretold by prophets long before His birth—Jesus entered the world both miraculously and humbly.

His life was unlike any other. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and spoke words that pierced hearts and comforted the weary. Crowds followed Him, enemies opposed Him, but no one ignored Him. He taught with authority no one had ever heard before—speaking of a Kingdom not of this world, where the last would be first and the lost could be found.

But history also tells us this: Jesus was crucified under Roman rule. His death was real. And yet, it was not the end. Eyewitnesses claimed that on the third day, the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive. His resurrection turned despair into joy and fear into faith. It is the cornerstone of the Christian message.

Jesus is not just a historical figure. He is God in human flesh—our rescuer, re-

deemer, and risen King. The one who came not only to teach us but to save us. And He is still calling people today to know Him.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Who do you believe Jesus is—and how might your life change if what He claimed is true?

Supplementary Material — Study 3.5

Who Is Jesus, Really?

JESUS IN HISTORY: MORE THAN A LEGEND

Even outside the Bible, Jesus is one of the most well-attested figures of ancient history:

- Roman sources like Tacitus (c. AD 110) wrote that “Christus... suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius.”
- Jewish sources, like the historian Josephus (c. AD 93), refer to Jesus as a teacher and miracle-worker who was crucified.
- Ancient documents agree: Jesus was a real man who lived, taught, and died in first-century Judea.

Historians don’t doubt His existence. The real question is: Who was He?

THE CLAIMS OF JESUS: LORD, LIAR, OR LUNATIC?

C.S. Lewis, once an atheist, famously argued “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher... He would either be a lunatic—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice... Either this man was, and is, the Son of God—or else a madman or something worse.”

Jesus didn't leave us the option of calling Him a good teacher. He claimed to be:

- Sent from God (John 6:38)
- The Son of God (John 10:36)
- The way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
- The one who can forgive sins (Mark 2:5–7)
- Equal with God (John 5:18)

These are not ordinary claims.

THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY: A LONG-AWAITED HOPE

Long before Jesus was born, the Old Testament pointed toward a coming rescuer. Jesus fulfilled dozens of prophecies written centuries earlier:

Prophecy	Old Testament	Fulfilment
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22–23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
From the line of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 1:32
Would perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5–6	Luke 7:22
Would be rejected and killed	Isaiah 53	Mark 15
Would rise again	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31

No one could orchestrate this. It's as if the entire Old Testament was setting the stage for Jesus to walk onto.

THE CHARACTER OF JESUS: POWER AND COMPASSION

Jesus combined unmatched authority with deep humility. He welcomed children, dignified women, touched lepers, and forgave enemies. He challenged religious hypocrisy and reached out to outsiders.

Even His enemies couldn't find fault in His character. Pontius Pilate said, "I find no basis for a charge against him." (John 18:38). Jesus didn't just speak about love—He lived it.

WHY THIS MATTERS

If Jesus really is who He claimed to be, then He is the most important person in history—and in your life.

He doesn't ask us to blindly believe. He invites us to look at His life, consider the evidence, and follow where the truth leads.

"Who do you say I am?" – Jesus (Mark 8:29)

Study 4 — Jesus: The Only Way to Salvation

John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Some people believe there are many ways to find God, that all religions ultimately lead to the same place. But Jesus spoke clearly when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). His words are not about exclusion, but about a loving invitation to find the one true path to restoration with God.

Salvation is not about human effort or religious striving—it is about trusting in Jesus alone. Acts 4:12 says, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Jesus is the bridge between our brokenness and God’s goodness. Through Him, we receive forgiveness, healing, and a new life.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Why do you think Jesus claimed to be the only way to God? What does that mean for you?

Supplementary Material — Study 4

1. The Logic of Exclusivity: Jesus' Claims Leave No Neutral Ground

Jesus didn't claim to be a way, a truth, or a path among many. He said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

That's not an arrogant claim — it's a clear one. It forces a decision: either Jesus is who He says He is, or He's wrong. C.S. Lewis framed this powerfully: "Jesus did not leave us the option of saying He was just a great moral teacher. He was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord."

2. The Elephant and the Blind Men — The Flawed Analogy

The popular story goes like this: Several blind men touch an elephant. One feels the trunk and says it's a snake. Another feels the leg and says it's a tree. Another feels the side and says it's a wall.

The moral: All religions have part of the truth, but none see the whole.

But here's the logical flaw in that parable: The only way to say "all the blind men are partly right and partly wrong" is to claim that you can see the whole elephant.

That's a claim to ultimate knowledge — the very thing the story tries to deny! It's not humble; it's actually arrogant. Only someone who sees the whole truth can say others only have part. Jesus doesn't claim to know part of the truth — He claims to be the truth.

3. All Religions Don't Say the Same Thing

It sounds tolerant to say, "All religions lead to God," but it breaks down under examination.

The differences across beliefs are not superficial — they are contradictory. They cannot all be true at the same time.

4. Truth by Nature Is Exclusive

Truth is, by definition, exclusive. If two claims contradict each other, they can't both be right.

" $2 + 2 = 4$ " excludes " $2 + 2 = 5$."

"Jesus is the risen Son of God" excludes "Jesus died and stayed dead."
Christians believe that God has made a way, not many ways, and that this way is open to all people — but it's still oneway.

5. An Exclusive Claim That's Also Radically Inclusive

The exclusivity of Jesus isn't harsh — it's radically gracious: No one is too far gone. No culture is excluded. No level of morality is required.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

Christianity is exclusive in truth — but inclusive in invitation.

Study 5 — The Cross: The Price of Redemption

Isaiah 53:5

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

1 Peter 2:24

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

At the heart of the Christian faith is the cross. It is where love and justice meet, where mercy triumphs over judgment. Isaiah 53:5 tells us, “He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

Sin has a cost. The weight of our failures, our selfishness, our brokenness—it all had to be dealt with. But instead of placing that burden on us, Jesus bore it Himself.

1 Peter 2:24 says, “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”

The cross is not just an event in history—it is an invitation. An invitation to leave behind shame, guilt, and sin, and to step into new life.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How could it change your understanding of God to know that Jesus willingly took your place?

Supplementary Material — Study 5

JESUS: THE ONLY GOD WHO DIED FOR US

1. No Other Religion Has a God Who Suffers for Humanity

In *Islam*, Allah is too transcendent to suffer. God sends prophets, not Himself.

In *Hinduism*, the gods appear in many forms, but they do not die for sin. Karma is king — you pay your own debt.

In *Buddhism*, there is no personal god at all. Enlightenment comes through detachment, not relationship or sacrifice.

In *New Age thinking*, you are divine — there's no need for atonement, only self-discovery.

Only *Jesus* — the Son of God — enters our world, suffers in our place, and dies for sinners.

2. The Bible's Central Claim: A God Who Loves Enough to Die

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Christianity doesn't just say God loves you. It says: God has proven His love — by suffering and dying in your place. This is not sentimental love — it's sacrificial, substitutionary love.

3. This Fulfilled Long-Promised Hope (Not a Random Death)

The idea of substitutionary sacrifice is woven through the Old Testament (e.g., Passover lamb, Levitical offerings). Isaiah 53 foretold a suffering servant who would be “pierced for our transgressions.” Jesus didn't die as a tragic martyr — He died as the fulfilment of a long-prepared rescue plan.

4. It Makes Logical Sense of Grace and Justice

If God is just, He must deal with sin — He can't ignore evil. If God is love, He must make a way for sinners to be forgiven. The cross of Christ is where perfect justice and perfect mercy meet. Only the gospel says: God takes the penalty on Himself.

5. The Most Inclusive Exclusive Claim

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11) “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Yes, that's exclusive — but it's also radically inclusive for Jew and Gentile, for rich and poor, for sinners and saints, for all who believe.

SUMMARY

Only Christianity says God didn't wait for us to come to Him — He came to us.

Only Christianity says God didn't demand we die for Him — He died for us.

Study 6 — The Resurrection: Victory Over Sin and Death

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

John 11:25

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...”

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The cross would have been the end of the story—if not for the resurrection. Jesus did not stay in the grave. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day.” His victory over death means that we, too, can experience new life.

In John 11:25, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” Salvation is not just about having our sins forgiven; it is about receiving a new kind of life—one that starts now and lasts forever.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What does it mean for you that Jesus conquered death and offers new life?

Supplementary Material — Study 6

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- **Four Historical Facts Nearly All Scholars Agree On**

Most historians — Christian or not — agree on these four minimal facts, thanks to strong historical evidence:

- 1. Jesus was crucified and died**

Confirmed by multiple sources: all four Gospels, Paul's letters, Tacitus (Roman), Josephus (Jewish). Crucifixion was public, brutal, and confirmed by Roman executioners.

- 2. Jesus' tomb was found empty**

Reported in all four Gospels. Women were named as the first witnesses — a detail unlikely to be invented in the patriarchal culture of the time. No body was ever produced, despite efforts by opponents.

- 3. Many people claimed to see Jesus alive**

Recorded appearances to individuals and groups — friends, skeptics, enemies. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 reports a creed about these appearances dating to within 5 years of the crucifixion — incredibly early.

4. The disciples were transformed

From fearful and hiding to bold and joyful — even under persecution and death. They didn't die for a philosophy — they died proclaiming that Jesus rose and they saw Him.

- **Alternative Explanations Don't Hold Up**

Hallucinations? Hallucinations are private, not shared by 500 people. They don't explain the empty tomb.

Stolen Body? Who would steal it — the disciples? They were hiding in fear. Why die for a lie?

Wrong Tomb? Everyone, including the authorities, would have known the correct location. Producing the body would've stopped Christianity immediately.

- **The Best Explanation?**

Jesus physically rose from the dead.

It accounts for all the facts — the empty tomb, the eyewitnesses, the transformation of the disciples, and the birth of the early church.

Scriptural Foundation: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile...” (1

Corinthians 15:17) “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead...” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

- **It’s Not Just Historical — It’s Personal**

The resurrection is not just an ancient event — it’s the foundation of living hope today. “He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

SUMMARY

- Well-attested by ancient sources
- Believed early by eyewitnesses
- Never refuted by Jesus’ enemies
- Transformative in history and today

SESSION THREE

Responding to the Gospel

Study 7 — Responding to the Good News: Faith and Repentance

Romans 10:9–10

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Acts 3:19

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Knowing about Jesus is not enough. The good news of salvation calls for a response. Romans 10:9-10 tells us, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Salvation is about trust—trusting Jesus to be Lord over our lives.

Acts 3:19 says, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Repentance simply means turning away from our old ways and turning toward Jesus. It is not about

perfection—it is about direction.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What could it mean for you to personally trust in Jesus? Are you ready to take that step?

Supplementary Material — Study 7

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

The word repentance can sound heavy or even religiously loaded. For some, it brings to mind guilt, shame, or harsh judgment. But when we go back to what the Bible actually means by repentance, we discover something deeply hopeful.

THE MEANING OF THE WORD

The word most often used for repent in the New Testament is the Greek word *metanoia*. It literally means “a change of mind,” but not just about opinions—about your whole direction in life. It’s a turning. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word often translated repent (*shuv*) means “to return” or “to turn back.”

Put together, repentance means turning away from one path and heading in a new direction—away from sin, toward God.

REPENTANCE IS NOT...

- ... about perfection. You don’t need to have your life cleaned up before you repent.
- ... just feeling guilty. Feeling sorry for what you’ve done wrong is a part of repentance, but emotion alone isn’t enough.

- ... about earning forgiveness. Repentance doesn't make God love you. It's a response to the love and mercy He already offers.

REPENTANCE IS...

- Turning from sin. We acknowledge that we've gone our own way instead of God's way. We stop defending, denying, or excusing it.
- Turning to God. Repentance is relational. It's not just about stopping bad behaviour—it's about returning to the God who made you and loves you.
- A change of heart and direction. It involves the whole person—your mind (beliefs), your heart (desires), and your will (choices).

Think of it like this: you're heading down a road that seems right at the time, but it's leading you toward a cliff. Repentance is when you stop, realise the danger, turn around, and start walking the other way—toward safety, toward life.

THE HEART OF REPENTANCE: TRUST

At the centre of repentance is not fear, but trust. Trust that God's way is better. Trust that His forgiveness is real. Trust that His grace is enough for you.

In Acts 3:19, the apostle Peter says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your

sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Repentance leads not to shame—but to refreshing.

WHY DOES REPENTANCE MATTER?

Because real change starts with honesty. We can’t move toward healing until we acknowledge what’s broken. Repentance opens the door for God’s grace to enter our lives and begin transforming us.

And here’s the good news: God is always ready to welcome us when we turn to Him. Repentance is not the end of the road—it’s the doorway to new life.

Study 8 — What Happens When We Place Our Faith in Jesus?

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

John 1:12

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

When someone places their faith in Jesus, something profound happens. The Bible describes it as becoming a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” This means that faith in Jesus is not just about changing behaviour—it’s about becoming someone new from the inside out.

John 1:12 tells us that those who receive Jesus are given the right to become children of God. This is not a symbolic title; it is a deep, personal reality. God adopts us into His family, and we now belong to Him. We are no longer defined by our past mistakes or failures—we are defined by His love.

This transformation does not mean that life suddenly becomes easy or perfect. But it does mean that we have a new identity, a new purpose, and a new source of strength. We are now walking in step with the One who created us and loves us beyond measure.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How could it change your perspective to know that faith in Jesus makes you a new creation and a child of God?

Supplementary Material — Study 8

WHAT IS REGENERATION?

Regeneration is a word you won't often hear in everyday conversation, but it describes one of the most powerful and hope-filled realities of the Christian life. It's the biblical term for the spiritual rebirth that happens when someone places their trust in Jesus.

WHAT DOES “REGENERATION” MEAN?

The word regeneration simply means “new birth” or “being born again.” It's a work that God does in us—making us spiritually alive when we were spiritually dead.

Titus 3:5 says: “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...”

This washing of rebirth is what theologians call regeneration. It's not just about being forgiven—it's about being made new from the inside out.

WHY DO WE NEED REGENERATION?

The Bible teaches that because of sin, we are spiritually dead. We're not just

people who make mistakes—we're people who are disconnected from the life of God.

Ephesians 2:1–5 says: “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... but because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ...”

We don't just need a second chance or better behaviour—we need new life.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD REGENERATES US?

When someone puts their faith in Jesus, God does something miraculous:

- He makes us alive (Ephesians 2:5)
- He gives us a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26)
- He gives us the Holy Spirit to live within us (John 3:5–6; Titus 3:5)
- He re-creates us as a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Regeneration is instant—it happens at the moment of faith. It's not something we do; it's something God does to us and in us. And it marks the beginning of a new life in Christ.

REGENERATION AND BEING “BORN AGAIN”

Jesus Himself described regeneration in His conversation with Nicodemus in

John 3: “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3)

Nicodemus was confused—he thought Jesus was talking about a physical second birth. But Jesus explained He meant a spiritual birth—being “born of the Spirit” (John 3:5–8). So when Christians talk about being born again, they’re talking about regeneration—a fresh, divine start.

HOW IS REGENERATION DIFFERENT FROM SALVATION OR JUSTIFICATION?

- *Salvation* is the broad term that includes everything God does to rescue us.
- *Justification* is a legal term: God declares us righteous and forgiven.
- *Regeneration* is a biological/spiritual image: God gives us a new life and new nature.

They happen together at the moment of faith, but regeneration is the part that speaks to new birth, not just being cleared of guilt.

WHY DOES REGENERATION MATTER?

Because it means you’re not trying to live a “Christian life” on your own strength. You have a new heart. A new Spirit within. A new identity. You are not just a better version of your old self. You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Study 9 — Eternal Life Starts Now

John 17:3

3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

1 John 5:11–13

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Many people think of eternal life as something that begins after death. But Jesus defined eternal life differently. In John 17:3, He said, “Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” Eternal life is not just about living forever—it’s about knowing God personally, starting now.

1 John 5:11-13 assures us that those who believe in Jesus already have eternal life. This means that salvation is not just an escape plan for the afterlife; it is an

invitation to live in the fullness of God's presence today through the life of the Kingdom of God. It is about experiencing peace, joy, and purpose that come from a restored relationship with Him.

When we step into faith, we begin to live with a different perspective. Our lives are no longer defined by temporary struggles but by the deep, abiding presence of God that carries us through each and every day.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What could it mean for you to live in the reality of eternal life today, rather than just thinking of it as something after death?

SESSION FOUR

Grace, Assurance & the Spirit

Study 10 — The Free Gift of Salvation

Ephesians 2:8–9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:4–7

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

One of the most beautiful truths about salvation is that it is a gift. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” This means that salvation is not something we achieve; it is something we receive.

Many people struggle with this idea. We are used to working for what we have, earning approval, proving our worth. But God's love is not based on our performance. Titus 3:5 tells us, “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.” There is nothing we can do to earn salvation—it is freely given by God's grace.

This truth brings freedom. We don't have to live under the burden of trying to be “good enough” for God. Instead, we can rest in His love, knowing that He has done the work for us through Jesus. All we need to do is accept His gift with open hands.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How does it feel to know that salvation is not something you have to earn, but a gift you can receive?

Study 11 — Confidence in Salvation: Can I Be Sure?

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 5:13

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Many people wrestle with doubt after making a decision to follow Jesus. They wonder, “What if I mess up? What if I don’t feel saved? Can I lose my salvation?” But Scripture offers us strong assurance. Romans 8:38-39 declares that nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God’s love is not based on our emotions or our performance. 1 John 5:13 says, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” Our salvation is not about how well we

hold onto God; it is about how securely He holds onto us.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus, you can rest in His promise: You are His, and nothing can take that away.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Can you imagine doubting your salvation? How might God's promise give you peace?

Study 12 — The Holy Spirit: Our Helper and Guide

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Salvation is not just about what happens after we die—it's about how we live now. When we place our faith in Jesus, He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who comes to live within us. John 14:16-17 tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper and our guide, leading us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us when we feel weak, reminds us of God's love when we forget, and transforms us over time. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the

fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the natural results of living in close relationship with God.

Through the Holy Spirit, we experience God's presence every day, guiding us, shaping us, and reminding us that we are His and we have access to the life of the kingdom.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How could knowing that God's Spirit lives in you change the way you see your daily life?

SESSION FIVE

Committing to the Journey

Study 13 — Saying Yes to Jesus: A Moment of Decision

Romans 10:9-10

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

At some point, every person must decide how they will respond to Jesus. The gospel is not just information—it is an invitation.

Romans 10:9-10 tells us, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” This is the moment of stepping into faith.

Saying “yes” to Jesus is not about having all the answers. It’s about trusting in

the One who does.

John 3:16 reminds us that God's love for us is so great that He sent Jesus so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.

If you are ready to receive this gift, you can pray something like this:

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again. I turn from my old life and place my trust in You. Come into my life, fill me with Your Spirit, and lead me in Your ways. Amen.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Have you ever personally responded to Jesus? If not, what is holding you back?

Study 14 — A New Life: What Happens After Choosing to Follow Jesus?

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Colossians 3:1-3

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Coming to faith in Jesus is not just about making a decision—it's about stepping into a brand-new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This means that we are no longer defined by our past. We are given a fresh start, a new identity as God's beloved children.

But what does this new life look like? Colossians 3:1-3 encourages us to set our hearts and minds on things above, not on earthly things. Salvation is not just

about a future hope; it's about a transformed way of living today. We begin to desire different things, love differently, and see life through a new lens.

This change is not something we do on our own—it is the work of the Holy Spirit within us, shaping us day by day into the image of Jesus, through the renewal of our mind and learned habits of our bodies.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What could it mean to you to be a new creation in Christ? How might that change the way you live?

Study 15 — Growing in Faith: Building a Strong Foundation

Matthew 7:24–27

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Hebrews 5:12–14

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Faith is like a house—it needs a strong foundation to stand firm. Jesus used the image of a wise builder who builds on rock instead of sand. Matthew 7:24-27 tells us that those who hear His words and put them into practice are like a house built on a solid foundation. When storms come, that house remains standing.

But faith is not something that automatically grows—it needs to be nurtured. Hebrews 5:12-14 describes faith like spiritual nourishment. Just as a newborn moves from milk to solid food, believers must grow in maturity by learning and applying God’s Word. This happens through prayer, reading Scripture, being part of a faith community, and practicing what Jesus teaches.

A strong faith does not mean a perfect life—it means having deep roots that keep you steady, no matter what comes. And over time we see our behaviour change towards Christlikeness.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What are some ways you can build a stronger foundation in your faith?

SESSION SIX

Building Spiritual Practices

Study 16 — Prayer: Talking with God

Philippians 4:6–7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:9–13

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.’

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Prayer is not a religious ritual; it is a conversation with God. It is the way we draw near to Him, express our hearts, and hear His voice. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to bring everything to God in prayer, knowing that His peace will guard our hearts.

Jesus Himself taught us how to pray. In Matthew 6:9-13, He gave us the Lord's Prayer as a model—not just to repeat, but to guide us in how to connect with God. Prayer is about worship, surrender, asking for our needs, seeking forgiveness, and aligning ourselves with God's will.

Prayer is not about saying the right words; it is about relationship. God invites us to talk with Him honestly, to bring our worries, joys, and needs before Him. He listens, He cares, and He responds.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How can you make prayer a regular part of your life, not just something for difficult moments?

Supplementary Material — Study 16

TYPES OF PRAYER – A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

Prayer is simply talking with God. It can be short or long, spoken or silent, structured or spontaneous. Here are some key types of prayer that help grow your relationship with Him:

1. Praise – Telling God how great He is

You thank Him for who He is—His love, power, goodness, and faithfulness.

Example: “God, you are holy and worthy of all worship!”

2. Thanksgiving – Gratitude for what God has done

You thank Him for blessings, answered prayers, and daily help.

Example: “Thank you, Lord, for guiding me today.”

3. Confession – Admitting where you’ve gone wrong

You bring your sins to God, ask for forgiveness, and receive His grace.

Example: “Father, I’m sorry for losing my temper. Please forgive me.”

4. Petition – Asking God for help in your own life

You bring your needs, concerns, hopes, and dreams before Him.

Example: “God, please give me strength for this challenge.”

5. Intercession – Praying for others

You lift up family, friends, leaders, the sick, or anyone in need.

Example: “Lord, please comfort my friend who is grieving.”

6. Listening – Being still to hear God’s voice

Prayer is a two-way conversation. Sometimes we need to slow down, be quiet, and simply listen with an open heart.

You don’t have to follow a formula, but a helpful pattern is ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

Study 17 — The Bible: Growing in Truth

2 Timothy 3:16–17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The Bible is more than just a book—it is God’s living word, meant to guide and shape us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Through the Bible, we come to know God’s heart, His plans, and His ways.

Psalms 119:105 describes Scripture as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In a world full of uncertainty, God’s word provides clarity and direction. It teaches us what is true, reveals His promises, and reminds us of His unchanging love.

Spending time in the Bible regularly strengthens our faith. It helps us discern truth from deception and equips us to live in a way that honours God. Even when we don't fully understand everything, the Holy Spirit works through Scripture to shape our hearts.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How can you make reading the Bible a daily habit, and what difference might it make in your life?

Study 18 — The Church: Walking with Others

Hebrews 10:24–25

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:42–47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Faith was never meant to be a solo journey. From the beginning, God designed us to walk with others. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

The early church lived this out. Acts 2:42-47 describes believers gathering together, sharing life, worshiping, and caring for one another. They were not perfect, but they were committed to growing together in Christ.

Being part of a church community provides encouragement, accountability, and opportunities to serve. It reminds us that we are not alone. When we worship together, study the Bible, and support one another, we experience the love of Christ in deeper ways.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How has Christian community shaped your faith, and how can you invest more deeply in it?

SESSION SEVEN

Living On Mission

Study 19 — Living as a Disciple: Following Jesus Daily

Luke 9:23

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Following Jesus is not a one-time decision—it is a lifelong journey. Luke 9:23 says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Being a disciple means surrendering to Jesus each day, letting His will shape our choices, relationships, and priorities.

Galatians 2:20 describes this transformation: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” When we follow Jesus, our old ways of living fade, and His life begins to shine through us. We are called to reflect His love, walk in humility, and grow in faith.

This journey is not about perfection—it is about progress. Every step we take in following Jesus draws us closer to Him and strengthens us to live in His grace.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What does taking up your cross daily mean for you in practical ways?

Study 20 — A Step of Obedience: Baptism

Matthew 28:18–20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Water baptism is one of the first steps a new believer takes in following Jesus. It is an outward sign of an inner transformation—a public declaration of faith, obedience, and new life in Christ.

Jesus Himself was baptised (Matthew 3:13-17), not because He needed cleansing from sin, but to fulfil all righteousness and set an example for us. When we are baptised, we are following in His footsteps.

What Does Baptism Symbolise?

- A Picture of the Gospel – Romans 6:3-4 explains that baptism represents dying to our old way of life and being raised to new life in Christ. Just as Jesus

was buried and rose again, baptism illustrates our spiritual resurrection.

- A Public Declaration of Faith – In Acts 2:41, those who believed Peter’s message about Jesus were baptised that very day. Baptism is a way of publicly saying, “I belong to Jesus!”
- A Step of Obedience – Jesus commanded His followers to be baptised (Matthew 28:19). It is not just a tradition—it is an act of obedience to Christ’s call.

Why Full Immersion?

In the New Testament, baptism was always by immersion (Mark 1:9-10, Acts 8:38-39). The Greek word for baptise (baptizō) literally means to immerse, dip, or submerge. Full immersion baptism best reflects the biblical picture of being buried with Christ and raised to new life.

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

Baptism is a command of Jesus, but it is not what saves us—only faith in Christ does (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, choosing not to be baptised when we are able to displays a heart that resists obedience. The New Testament pattern is faith, then baptism, as an act of commitment to Christ.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Have you publicly declared your faith in Jesus through water baptism? If not, what is holding you back?

Study 21 — Sharing the Good News: Inviting Others to Know Jesus

Matthew 28:19–20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The good news of Jesus is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. He calls us to share it with others. Matthew 28:19-20 is known as the Great Commission, where Jesus tells His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Sharing our faith is not about having all the right answers—it is about inviting others into the love and grace we have received.

Romans 1:16 declares, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” The gospel is powerful. When we tell others about Jesus, we are offering them hope, life, and a relationship with the God who loves them.

Whether through conversations, acts of kindness, or simply living in a way that reflects Christ, we have opportunities every day to share His love. The world is longing for hope—let’s be the ones who point them to Jesus.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Who in your life might be open to hearing about Jesus, and how can you share His love with them?

APPENDIX

Big Questions of Faith — A Seeker's Guide

This guide is for anyone who brings honest questions to the table while exploring Jesus. Faith isn't about shutting down curiosity—it's about letting our deepest questions find satisfying answers in the story of God. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about life, God, suffering, purpose, salvation, and truth—along with where to find them addressed in this course.

Q: DOES GOD EXIST—AND IF SO, WHAT IS HE LIKE?

Addressed in:

- Study 1 – Who Is God and Why Is He Good?
- Supplement (Design, First Cause Arguments)
- Glossary: God

Q: WHAT MAKES THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF GOD DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RELIGIONS OR SPIRITUAL BELIEFS?

Addressed in:

- Study 1 – Supplement: Who Is God?
- Study 3 – Supplement: Comparative Salvation Paths
- Study 4 – Supplement: The Logic of Jesus' Exclusive Claims
- Study 5 – Supplement: Christianity vs Other Religions on Suffering and Atonement

Q: WHY IS THE WORLD SO BROKEN? WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Addressed in:

- Study 2 – Why Is the World Broken?
- Study 2 – Supplement: Theodicy (Plantinga, Hick, Augustine)
- Study 2 – Supplement: How Different Religions Understand Suffering

Q: WHAT IS SIN—AND DOES IT REALLY APPLY TO ME?

Addressed in:

- Study 3 – The Consequences of Sin
- Glossary: Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness

Q: WHO IS JESUS, REALLY? HOW DO WE KNOW HE’S NOT JUST A MYTH OR MORAL TEACHER?

Addressed in:

- Study 3.5 – Who Is Jesus?
- Study 3.5 – Supplement: Prophecy, Miracles, Resurrection Evidence
- Study 4 – Jesus: The Only Way
- Glossary: Jesus Christ

Q: CAN ALL RELIGIONS BE TRUE? DON’T THEY ALL LEAD TO GOD IN DIFFERENT WAYS?

Addressed in:

- Study 4 – Jesus: The Only Way to Salvation
- Study 4 – Supplement: Elephant Analogy, Logic of Exclusivity
- Study 3 – Supplement: Comparative Salvation

Q: WHAT DID JESUS ACTUALLY DO FOR US—AND WHY DID HE HAVE TO DIE?

Addressed in:

- Study 5 – The Cross: The Price of Redemption
- Supplement: Substitutionary Atonement, Fulfilled Prophecy
- Glossary: Cross, Grace, Redemption, Salvation

Q: DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD? HOW DO WE KNOW?

Addressed in:

- Study 6 – The Resurrection
- Supplement: Historical Proofs for the Resurrection
- Glossary: Resurrection

Q: WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Addressed in:

- Study 7 – Responding to the Good News
- Glossary: Faith, Repentance, Salvation

Q: CAN I REALLY BE FORGIVEN—EVEN FOR THE WORST THINGS?

Addressed in:

- Study 7 – Faith and Repentance
- Study 5 – The Cross
- Glossary: Forgiveness, Mercy, Grace

Q: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I BECOME A CHRISTIAN? WILL I BE DIFFERENT?

Addressed in:

- Study 8 – What Happens When We Place Our Faith in Jesus?
- Supplement: Regeneration, New Creation
- Glossary: New Creation, Holy Spirit

Q: WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE—AND WHEN DOES IT START?

Addressed in:

- Study 9 – Eternal Life Starts Now
- Glossary: Eternal Life

Q: IS SALVATION REALLY FREE—OR DO I NEED TO WORK FOR IT?

Addressed in:

- Study 10 – The Free Gift of Salvation
- Glossary: Grace, Faith, Salvation

Q: HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I'M SAVED? WHAT IF I MESS UP?

Addressed in:

- Study 11 – Confidence in Salvation
- Glossary: Justification, Assurance

Q: WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND HOW DOES HE HELP ME?

Addressed in:

- Study 12 – The Holy Spirit: Our Helper and Guide
- Glossary: Holy Spirit

Q: HOW DO I GROW IN MY FAITH?

Addressed in:

- Study 15 – Growing in Faith: Building a Strong Foundation
- Study 16 – Prayer
- Study 17 – Bible
- Glossary: Disciple, Worship, Prayer, Scripture

Q: WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTISED? IS IT NECESSARY?

Addressed in:

- Study 20 – A Step of Obedience: Baptism
- Supplement: Symbolism, Biblical Pattern, Mode, and Meaning
- Glossary: Baptism

Q: WHAT IS CHURCH, AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

Addressed in:

- Study 18 – The Church: Walking with Others
- Glossary: Fellowship, Church

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS EVERY DAY?

Addressed in:

- Study 19 – Living as a Disciple
- Glossary: Disciple, Lord, Obedience

Q: HOW DO I TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS? I DON'T FEEL QUALIFIED.

Addressed in:

- Study 21 – Sharing the Good News
- Glossary: Gospel, Evangelism

Glossary of Key Terms

AMEN

A word used at the end of a prayer that means “so be it” or “truly.” It's a way of saying, “I agree with this prayer.”

BAPTISM

A public act where a person is dipped in water (usually fully immersed) to show they've chosen to follow Jesus. It's a symbolic way of saying they've left their old life behind and are beginning a new life with God.

BIBLE

The sacred book of Christianity. It has two main parts: the Old Testament (before Jesus) and the New Testament (about Jesus and the early church).

CHRISTIAN

Someone who follows Jesus Christ and trusts in Him for salvation and new life.

CROSS

A wooden structure used in Roman executions. Jesus died on one, and it has become the main symbol of Christianity, representing His sacrifice for our sins.

DISCIPLE

A follower or student of Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus' closest followers were called disciples. Today, it refers to anyone who chooses to follow and learn from Jesus.

ETERNAL LIFE

Life that never ends, but more than just living forever—it means a deep, personal relationship with God that starts now and continues after death.

FAITH

Trusting in God and believing His promises—even when we can't see everything clearly. Faith is about relying on God rather than ourselves.

FORGIVENESS

When God removes our guilt and no longer holds our wrongs against us. It's offered freely through Jesus.

GOSPEL

This word means “good news.” It refers to the message that Jesus came to save us, restore us to God, and give us new life.

GRACE

A gift we don't deserve. God's grace means He loves us and saves us even though we've made mistakes. We don't earn it—it's freely given.

HOLY SPIRIT

God's presence living within believers. The Holy Spirit helps, guides, teaches, comforts, and changes us from the inside out.

JESUS CHRIST

The Son of God who came into the world as a man, lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. Christians believe He is the only way to know God.

LORD

A title meaning "master" or "leader." When someone says "Jesus is Lord," they mean that Jesus is the authority over their life.

MERCY

God's kindness and compassion, especially when we deserve judgment. Mercy is not getting the punishment we've earned.

NEW CREATION

A phrase from the Bible that means when someone starts following Jesus, they are spiritually made new. Their old way of life is gone, and they begin a new one with God.

REPENTANCE

A change of direction. It means turning away from sin (going our own way) and turning toward God.

RESURRECTION

Jesus rising from the dead after His crucifixion. Christians believe this proves He is God and offers us hope of new life after death.

SALVATION

Being rescued from sin and its consequences. It means being made right with God and receiving new life through Jesus.

SIN

Anything that goes against God's way. It includes selfishness, wrong actions, and even ignoring God. Sin separates us from God.

TESTAMENT (OLD/NEW)

The two main parts of the Bible. The Old Testament tells the story of God and His people before Jesus. The New Testament focuses on Jesus and the early Christian church.

WORSHIP

Giving God our love, honour, and thanks. This can happen through singing, praying, serving others, or simply living in a way that pleases God.

