

# CONSIDERING JESUS



A THREE PART STUDY  
EXPLORING WHY  
JESUS IS GOOD NEWS

# SESSION 1:

## JESUS CAME TO REVEAL GOD

Since the beginning of time people have wondered what the Creator of the universe is like.

Throughout history God has made Himself known in various ways. He revealed Himself to mankind through the **stars** - *"the heavens declare the glory of God"*<sup>1</sup>; through His **servants** - *"in the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways"*<sup>2</sup>; and through the **scriptures** - *"all scripture is God-breathed."*<sup>3</sup>

However, God's final word to mankind was spoken in an altogether different language. *"In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son."*<sup>4</sup>

Jesus Christ came to reveal God to us in a way that we could understand.

The Bible says that *"God is spirit"*<sup>5</sup> and therefore *"no-one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son... has made Him known."*<sup>6</sup>

Jesus was *"the visible expression of the invisible God"*<sup>7</sup> and could say, *"anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father."*<sup>8</sup>

So what did Jesus reveal to us about God during His time on earth?

Jesus revealed God's **HOLINESS** in the perfect life He lived. His friend said - *"He committed no sin"*<sup>9</sup>. His foe said - *"I find no fault in Him"*<sup>10</sup>. His Father said *"This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."*<sup>11</sup>

Jesus showed God's **POWER** in the many miracles He performed. He fed the hungry, healed the sick and raised the dead. After calming a great storm the people said *"what kind of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*<sup>12</sup>

Jesus expressed God's **WISDOM** in the profound teaching He gave. His audiences said *"never has anyone spoken like this man"*<sup>13</sup> as they listened to His wise and authoritative words.

Jesus proved God's **LOVE** by going about doing good, comforting the heartbroken and ultimately dying on the cross to provide forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven to all who will trust in Him.

What is God like?

All the guessing games stop when we look at Jesus!

1 Psalm 19:1

2 Hebrews 1:1

3 2 Timothy 3:16

4 Hebrews 1:2

5 John 4:24

6 John 1:18

7 Colossians 1:15

8 John 14:9

9 1 Peter 2:22

10 John 19:4

11 Matthew 3:17

12 Matthew 8:27

13 John 7:46

# SESSION 1: QUESTIONS

1. What do the majority of people think about Jesus Christ today?
2. Why is it important for us to know what God is like?
3. How do these attributes of God, which were seen in Jesus, affect us ?

HIS POWER:

HIS HOLINESS:

HIS LOVE:

4. How should it make us feel to know that God became human and lived on planet earth for 33 years?

# SESSION 2:

## JESUS CAME TO RESCUE SINNERS

Jesus came into the world on a rescue mission *“to save those who were (spiritually) lost.”*<sup>1</sup>

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God in the Garden of Eden<sup>2</sup>, the human race has been separated from God because of its sin.<sup>3</sup>

Sin is the breaking of God’s law<sup>4</sup>, a summary of which was given in the 10 commandments.<sup>5</sup> Breaking God’s law has serious consequences.

Sin plunges us into a position whereby we are spiritually lost and no longer able to enjoy a relationship with the holy God who made us.<sup>6</sup>

Sin affects our relationships with others and our own well-being as it fills us with guilt, regret and self-despair.<sup>7</sup>

Sin prohibits us from accessing Heaven, because nothing unclean can enter there.<sup>8</sup>

Sin will lead to us being sentenced, on Judgement Day, to spend the endless afterlife in Hell and the Lake of Fire.<sup>9</sup>

Jesus Christ came to rescue us from sin and all its awful consequences.

God had a rescue plan mapped out and the time came when, in order to execute it, He *“sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”*<sup>10</sup> When God’s Son arrived in Bethelhem they called Him Jesus, meaning ‘Saviour’, because *“He would save His people from their sins.”*<sup>11</sup>

For 33 years Jesus lived a life of sinless perfection, qualifying Him to suffer and die for the sins of others.

On Calvary’s cross Jesus experienced the judgement that we deserved as He *“suffered for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.”*<sup>12</sup>

On the third day after His death, *“God raised Him from the dead”*<sup>13</sup> to confirm to the world that Jesus had fully paid the penalty of sin.

On this basis, God now offers to forgive all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus. Those who do so will be spared eternal punishment in Hell and are promised eternal paradise in Heaven.<sup>14</sup>

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1 Matthew 18:11

2 Genesis 3

3 Isaiah 59:2

4 1 John 3:4

5 Exodus 20

6 Isaiah 59:2

7 Psalm 51:3

8 Revelation 21:27

9 Revelation 20:11-15

10 1 John 4:14

11 Matthew 1:21

12 1 Peter 3:18

13 Acts 2:24

14 John 3:16

## SESSION 2: QUESTIONS

1. Do you think people understand how serious the multiple consequences of sin really are?
2. Many people believe, and many religions teach, that it's possible to get to Heaven simply by trying your best to be good. What do you think about that?
3. Why were these three things essential elements in God's rescue plan?

JESUS' PERFECT LIFE:

JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS:

JESUS' RESURRECTION:

4. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we are saved from our sins, "by grace" and "through faith". What does this mean?

# SESSION 3:

## JESUS CAME TO REVOLUTIONISE LIVES

Jesus didn't come to earth to start a revolution, but He did come to transform lives.

He came that people might have *"life in all its fulness."*<sup>1</sup>

Jesus had a profound impact upon many individuals He met. The blind were made to see<sup>2</sup>, the deaf to hear<sup>3</sup>, the dumb to talk<sup>4</sup>, and the lame to walk<sup>5</sup>. Lepers were cleansed<sup>6</sup>, mourners were comforted<sup>7</sup>, and the dead were raised<sup>8</sup>. Those who had an encounter with Christ were never the same again.

However, the lives which were most radically transformed were of those who came to trust and follow Him. Individuals from many different backgrounds heard and responded to His simple call - *"follow me"*.<sup>9</sup>

These followers of Jesus were described as *"disciples"*<sup>10</sup> because they learnt from Him and were instructed by Him. The more time these individuals spent with Jesus, the more like Him they became.

Their new-found relationship with Jesus revolutionised their lives!

For almost 2,000 years now, Jesus Christ has been revolutionising people's lives.

When someone turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus, receiving Him as Saviour and Lord, it brings about a radical transformation in their life.

The difference Jesus makes is so dramatic that the Bible likens it to being *"born again"*<sup>11</sup> and says that anyone who belongs to Christ *"has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"*<sup>12</sup>

When a person decides to follow Jesus, they hand over control of their life to Him. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within their heart<sup>13</sup> and gives them the power to live a new life that's pleasing to God.

As Christians read the Bible, pray, worship, serve and have fellowship with other believers, they grow more and more like Jesus.

The good news is that Jesus is still in the business of revolutionising lives today!

1 John 10:10

2 John 9:1-7

3 Mark 7:31-37

4 Mark 7:31-37

5 John 5:1-9

6 Luke 17:11-19

7 Luke 7:11-17

8 John 11:38-44

9 Matthew 4:19

10 Matthew 10:1

11 John 3:3

12 2 Corinthians 5:17

13 1 Corinthians 6:19

## SESSION 3: QUESTIONS

1. What kind of people do you think need their lives revolutionised by Jesus?
2. “Christianity is a relationship, not a religion.” What does this mean and why is it important?
3. What do you think should characterise someone who follows Jesus?
4. What things do you think Jesus would want to change about your life?

# ONE SOLITARY LIFE...

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30. Then, for three years, He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never travelled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, his executioners gambled for His clothes, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life.

*(Adapted from original version by Dr James Allan Francis, 1926)*

**“These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”**

**- John 20:31 -**