

Piecing it together

What have you learned about Jesus that you didn't know before tonight, or what have you been reminded about as a result of this study?

Jesus said

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

"for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37)

Consider:

Do you believe Jesus was telling the truth? Have you received the life Jesus came to bring you?

Jesus came to save the lost, the last, and the least!

"..Jesus came into this world knowing what it would cost him. He bore in his pure being the marks of evil that we might be made pure." (Ravi Zacharias)

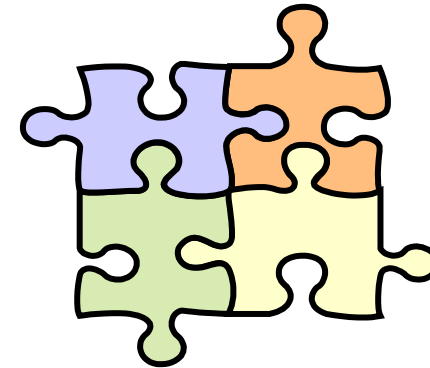
Next Week:

What about His death on the Cross?
Jesus – why He died

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." (Jesus)

Discovering Christianity

A course designed to help people discover the basics of the Christian faith and put the pieces of their spiritual understanding together



Study 3: Why did Jesus come to Earth?

Jesus – the Way to Life

Based on Luke 13:22-19:27

Introduction

When we begin to look seriously at the claims of Jesus, we have to ask in what way he is special. What about other religions and their Leaders? It can be confusing to people to understand which religion is right, or whether, as many people believe, “all religions lead to God”.

Consider:

Even though we are living in an age which likes to think that all religions are more or less similar, under closer examination, it is evident that each religion differs widely on important foundational beliefs, such as the nature of God, and the basis of getting right with God. In addition, many religions are secretive, and you only get to know what they believe when you are “accepted”. Often they claim that their group is the only channel of God’s truth. (Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and others)

Christianity, on the other hand, has no secrets, and is clear that truth is not found exclusively in any Church, but in a Person - Jesus Christ.



Facts:

- Some religions don’t believe in God (e.g. Buddhism) or believe in many gods who disagree with each other!
- You can visit the grave of every other religious founder!
- Every other religion is about **doing** certain things, but Christianity is about receiving Christ (John 1:10-13).

Discuss:

What other religions have you considered or got involved in?
What answer did you come up with about Jesus after the last study – is Jesus a liar, a lunatic or the Lord?

Look at Luke

Read Luke 15:1-2 & 11-32 Jesus told the parable in response to the Pharisees’ complaint in verse 2. What does this tell you about the main point of the parable? Who do the main characters in the story represent? In what ways does this parable apply to you?

Notes: “Pharisees” were the very devout religious people of the day, who tried to keep every command in the Old Testament literally.
“Teachers of the law” (sometimes called “scribes”) were the experts in copying the Old Testament Law, and in interpreting it.
“Parables” are simple stories or word-pictures from everyday life used to illustrate one or two key points. Like other Rabbi’s of the period, Jesus used them extensively to teach basic truth to people.

Read Luke 18:31-34. What do these verses tell you about Jesus’ understanding about His death and resurrection before the event?

Read Luke 19:1-10. This businessman couldn’t find satisfaction in money. Why do you think he was keen to see Jesus? How did Jesus treat him? What was his response after meeting with Jesus?

Notes: “Tax Collectors” were Jews who collected taxes on behalf of the Romans. They were despised as traitors, collaborating with the enemy, and also because they became rich by making people pay more tax than was actually required by the Roman Empire.

What did Jesus say his reason for coming to earth was in Luke 19:10? What do you think this means?