

Piecing it together



“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

“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.” (John 3:16)

The Bible

Consider:

- How would you answer the suggestion that God is unjust because He punished Jesus instead of us?
- Does Christ’s death on the cross have any practical influence on your life?
- Have you responded in faith and thanks for what Christ did on the cross for you?

“At the centre of all religions is the idea of Karma: you know an eye for an eye – every action is met by an equal or opposite one. And then along comes this idea of gr4ace. God’s grace can interrupt the stupid mess we’ve made of our lives ... If Karma is my final judge then I’m in big trouble because I’ve done such stupid stuff. If it’s our goodness that decides our fate then we’re all in trouble ... Grace doesn’tb excuse my mistakes, but I’m holding out that Jesus took my sins and the sins of the whole world onto the Cross. We don’t deserve it, but it’s what enables us to start over. It’s what gives us hope.” (Bono)

Karma = You sin & You pay **The Bible** = You sin & Jesus pays

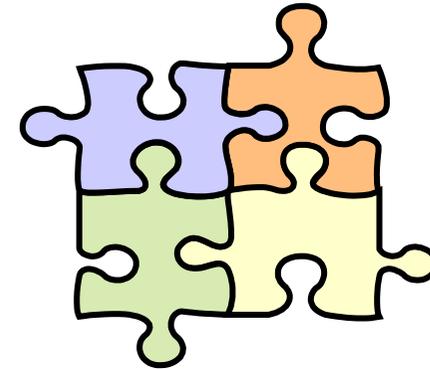
Next Week:

Did Christ rise from the dead??

Jesus – alive forevermore

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 4: What about His death on the cross? Jesus – and why He died

Based on Luke 19:28 – 23:56

Introduction

Why do you think Jesus came to earth? What do other people say was the reason he came?

Consider:

In the late 1900's it was generally believed that human nature was essentially good and that evil; was largely a result of ignorance and bad housing. It was assumed that education and social reform would resolve mankind's problems and enable us to live together in goodwill and happiness. Yet there were more wars in the 20th Century than in any other age, and the 21st century with the riots in 2011 in London and elsewhere, seems to challenge this viewpoint.

The Bible's teaching:

- The Bible says that all the problems in the world are ultimately due to mankind choosing to rebel against God. As a result, the whole of creation has been affected and is "out of sync" with how God originally made it, and what He intended.
- People are out of touch with God, because of sin, and need to come to Him in surrender, in order to find forgiveness and their purpose and destiny.

SIN = SELFISHNESS

Discuss:

- On a scale of 1-10, how good are you when measured against Jesus Christ?
- Some people say their lives are ok and they don't need religion. But what do you think is God's verdict of their life?

"If I wrote down every thought I have ever thought and every deed I have ever done, men would call me a monster of depravity." (Somerset Maugham)

- **Look at Luke**

Read Luke 22:66-71

Why did the Jewish Leaders decide to have Jesus killed?

Read Luke 23:32-43

What does verse 34 reveal about Jesus attitude?

What does the conversation between the two criminals reveal about each of them in verses 39-43?

Do you think Jesus was able to keep the promise he made in verse 43?

Read Luke 23:44-46

List the strange events that happened when Jesus was on the cross. Why did they occur, and what do you think they mean?

Read Luke 23:47 -56

What can you learn about the Centurion and Joseph of Arimathea from their reactions to Jesus death?