

WHY JESUS?

WHYJESUS.INFO



WHY JESUS

SERIES 1 | JESUS' IDENTITY

Sermon Based Small Group Study

October 2017

Northeast Christian Church

Welcome

There has never been anyone more famous, infamous, studied, misunderstood, or talked about than Jesus of Nazareth.

But after all that has been written and said about him, many still don't really know who Jesus is. Who was he? Who did he say he was? What did he say about himself?

As we kick off this discussion of the life and teachings of Jesus, we will take just a couple of weeks to discuss the identity of Jesus in his own words. It may surprise you.

We are so excited about this new series here at Northeast. We hope that you is ready to take a deep dive into the life and teachings and of Jesus. We pray that it is transformational for the lives of your group.

We want to draw your attention to something we are doing during this series. During the *Why Jesus* series, we want to challenge you and your group to read through all four Gospel accounts. So on the bottom of each week's study as well as at the back of your packet, you will see the readings that you are your group can do to read through the Gospels.

As always, we are here to help. Have questions? Let us know.

-Northeast Small Groups Team

How to Use these Sessions

All of our Small Group sessions are formatted the same. Each week is broken down into four parts: Theme Introduction, Group Opener, Group Discussion, and Action Steps.

- The **Big Idea** is the one thing that we want everyone to walk away with. If you had to summarize the entire study in one sentence, this is it.
- The **Group Opener** is a way to get the conversation going. Don't worry – we won't make you do any goofy group exercises and do any bad youth group ice-breaker games. However, this allows everyone in your group to get to know each other in a different way and to feel comfortable.
- The **Group Discussion** is the heart of your group study. This is where we will dig into God's Word and discuss how it applies to our lives.
- The **Action Steps** are the place where we see how what we have learned impacts our lives during the week.

You may not get to all of the different questions and topics within your discussion guide and that's just fine. It is more important that your group has a deep and fruitful conversation than completing all of the questions.

SESSION 1

JESUS IS GOD

October 21 & 22
WEEKEND

BIG IDEA

Jesus was both a historical figure and fully God.

GROUP OPENER

Have you ever engaged in a discussion with someone who didn't believe that Jesus was really God. What was that like? What were their arguments? How did you respond?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Many of us struggle with the concept that Jesus was both fully human and fully God. Why is that such a challenging concept to so many of us?
- What are the implications of understanding that Jesus was both divine and human? How does that change the nature of faith?
- Read Colossians 1:15. What does this passage say about Jesus' divinity?
- Many people would like to believe that the teachings of Christ are from just another guru or prophet. Yet, Colossians 1:15 changes that. How does it change the way we understand the teachings of Jesus?
- Read Colossians 1:15-20. In this passage, we reinforce the idea that Jesus is King. What are some examples of that?
- What does the end of this passage say about the crucifixion?
- How does understanding Jesus' divinity change the way you view the crucifixion?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Matthew 6
- Tuesday: Matthew 7
- Wednesday: Matthew 8
- Thursday: Matthew 9
- Friday: Matthew 10

SESSION 2

October 28 & 29
WEEKEND

JESUS' MESSAGE

BIG IDEA

Jesus' message is that the Kingdom of God is here.

GROUP OPENER

When you think of a kingdom, what are some of the images that pop into your mind?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 4:17.

- What is meant when Jesus calls us to repent?
- Why do you think this is the first thing that Jesus is preaching about?
- How does Jesus' emphasis on repentance change your view of Jesus? Why does he immediately put such an importance on sin?
- The Kingdom of God is a concept that Jesus teaches on throughout scripture. Yet, many people do not understand what it means. What is your understanding of it?
- Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God was arriving with him. Yet, there is still plenty of sin and suffering in the world. If we are to believe Jesus, where does the Kingdom of God exist?
- There is a common phrase used to describe the Kingdom of God: arriving and not yet. It is the idea that the Kingdom is both here, but not completely fulfilled. Do you find this to be true?
- What is the role of Jesus' followers in bringing about the arrival of the Kingdom of God?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Take some time to pray for your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Matthew 11
- Tuesday: Matthew 12
- Wednesday: Matthew 13
- Thursday: Matthew 14
- Friday: Matthew 15

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Use this page to write down the prayer requests and praises of your group over these sessions. Keep reviewing these to see how God is moving in our lives as we pray for those we care about.

GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

	Who's Hosting the Discussion?	Where are you Meeting?	Who's Bringing Snacks?
Session 1 Oct. 21 & 22			
Session 2 Oct. 28 & 29			

GOSPELS READING PLAN SCHEDULE

As you read these passages everyday, we want to encourage you to follow the SOAP method to really digest and understand what God is trying to say to you through His Word.

S: Scripture - Read the scripture passage

O: Observation - What is this passage saying? What are some things that stick out to you?

A: Application - How does what is written in this passage apply to my life? How can I put these truths into action in my life?

P: Prayer - Ask God to reveal to you how you can more closely follow Him through His Scripture.

Week 2: Week of October 22

- Monday: Matthew 6
- Tuesday: Matthew 7
- Wednesday: Matthew 8
- Thursday: Matthew 9
- Friday: Matthew 10

Week 3: Week of October 29

- Monday: Matthew 11
- Tuesday: Matthew 12
- Wednesday: Matthew 13
- Thursday: Matthew 14
- Friday: Matthew 15