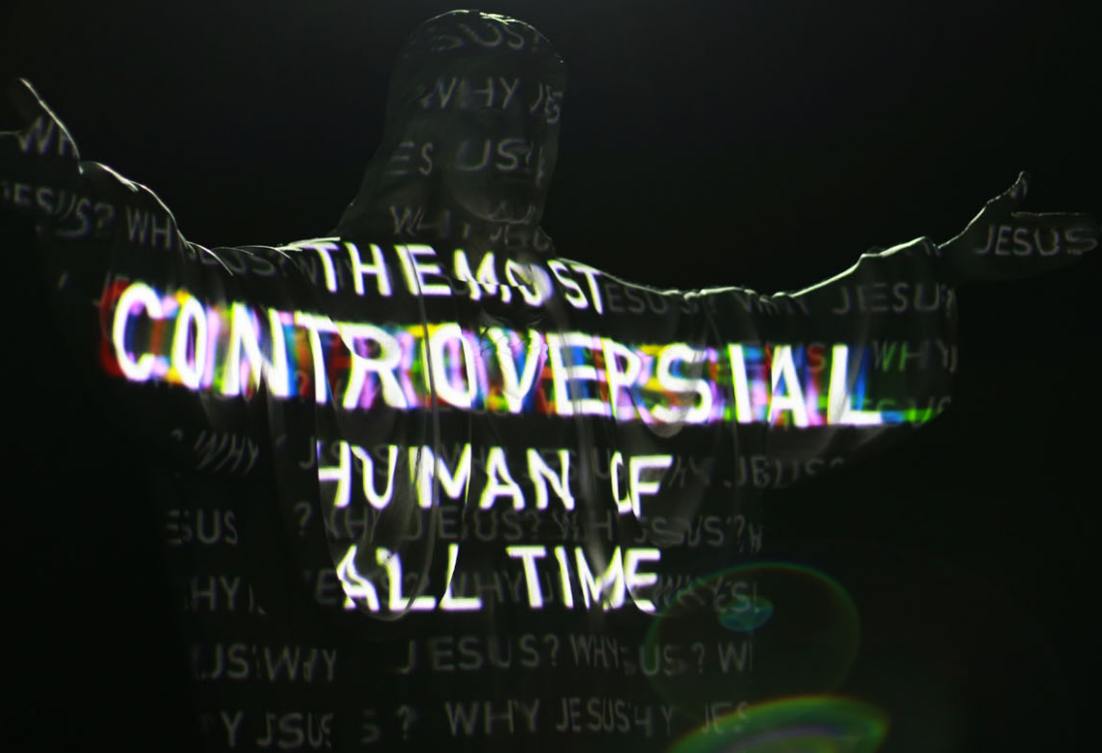


WHY JESUS?

WHYJESUS.INFO



WHY JESUS

SERIES 2 | WHOSE SIDE IS HE ON?

Sermon Based Small Group Study

November 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?

We are so excited about this 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

November 4 & 5
WEEKEND

WHOSE SIDE IS HE ON?

BIG IDEA

Many people try to use Jesus for their own purposes.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you've had to convince someone that you were right. This could be a fight with your siblings as a kid or a disagreement with your spouse.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Many people try to manipulate the statements of Jesus for their own gain. Have you ever experienced this in person? What was that like?
- Why is it so often hard to discern if someone is manipulating Jesus for their own gain?
- What are some ways that you can tell that someone is using Jesus for their own gain? What are some measuring sticks that we should use?
- Read Matthew 7:15-20. What does this teach us about how we can identify those who aren't being faithful with Scripture?
- One of the best ways to tell what side Jesus is on is by seeing if what is being said is consistent with Scripture. How can being constantly in the Scripture help you to discern better?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. Do you think we are now at this time? Why?
- As followers of Jesus, how can we faithfully and lovingly help those who are trying to use Jesus for their own cause? How can we guide our friends and family toward the truth?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Matthew 16
- Tuesday: Matthew 17
- Wednesday: Matthew 18
- Thursday: Matthew 19
- Friday: Matthew 20

SESSION 2

NO ONE'S SIDE

BIG IDEA

Jesus challenges many of our hidden assumptions and attitudes.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you were convinced that you were right, but found out you were very wrong. (Hint: think back to the last argument you had with your significant other or close friends)

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Jesus' teachings are so difficult for many of us because they challenge many of our pre-conceived notions about life. What is one attitude or opinion that you have that is challenged when you look at the teachings of Jesus?
- One hidden belief that Jesus challenges that many of us have is individualism. How does Jesus challenge this belief?
- How can an individualistic attitude be beneficial for your spiritual life?
- How can a strong sense of individualism be contrary to the teachings of Jesus? (See the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7)
- Another prominent hidden belief is consumerism. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus speaks specifically against accumulating wealth. How does this run counter to our normal beliefs and behaviors?
- In Matthew 22:15-22, Jesus speaks about paying taxes and our allegiances in the Kingdom of God. What priority does Jesus give to our citizenship as Americans in relationship to our citizenship of Heaven?
- One last hidden belief that Jesus challenges is moral relativism. Read John 14:6-7. How does this statement that Jesus makes sit with you? How does it challenge the common belief of the world today?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Matthew 21
- Tuesday: Matthew 22
- Wednesday: Matthew 23
- Thursday: Matthew 24
- Friday: Matthew 25

SESSION 3

November 18 & 19
WEEKEND

EVERYONE'S SIDE

BIG IDEA

While Jesus often challenges us, He explicitly came for all people.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you have experienced unconditional love. What was that experience like? How did it change you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15:1-7.

- What does this say about the nature of God and his willingness to go after those who are far from him?
- Have you experienced this kind of love from God in your life?

Read Luke 15:8-10.

- What does this say about the value that God places on the life of every person?

Read Luke 15:11-32.

- Have you been the lost son? What was it like to be welcomed back to God?
- Have you been the good son? Why is it so difficult for us to welcome back those who wander away?
- What do these three parables show us about who God loves?
- How can we reflect this kind of radical love in our daily lives?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

On Your Own

- Spend some time thinking and praying about someone who needs to experience the love of Jesus. Who is that person for you? How can you be Jesus to them this week?

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Matthew 26
- Tuesday: Matthew 27
- Wednesday: Matthew 28
- Thursday: Mark 1
- Friday: Mark 2

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 Nov. 4 & 5			
Session 2 Nov. 11 & 12			
Session 3 Nov. 18 & 19			

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 4: Week of November 5

Monday: Matthew 16

Tuesday: Matthew 17

Wednesday: Matthew 18

Thursday: Matthew 19

Friday: Matthew 20

Week 5: Week of November 12

Monday: Matthew 21

Tuesday: Matthew 22

Wednesday: Matthew 23

Thursday: Matthew 24

Friday: Matthew 25

Week 6: Week of November 19

Monday: Matthew 26

Tuesday: Matthew 27

Wednesday: Matthew 28

Thursday: Mark 1

Friday: Mark 2