

# WHY JESUS?

WHYJESUS.INFO



## WHY JESUS

### SERIES 4 | JESUS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Sermon Based Small Group Study

January & February 2018

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 your group is ready to take a deep dive into the life and teachings of Jesus. We pray that it is transformational in the lives of your group members.

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 and 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

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# CULTURAL OUTSIDERS

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### **BIG IDEA**

In a time of cultural tribalism, Jesus was for everyone.

### **GROUP OPENER**

Share a time with your group when you really felt like an outsider. Maybe it was a time when you started a new job or moved to a new town. How did that experience impact you?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Over and over again Jesus goes out of His way to reach those that are considered outsiders? What does this show us about the character of God?
- Why is this often so difficult for followers of Jesus to copy in our everyday lives?
- Read or recap the story of the demon-possessed man in Luke 8:26-39. How would this man be considered a cultural outsider?
- What does Jesus say about this man as a cultural outsider?
- Jesus didn't see his condition or his nakedness and condemn him. Rather, he had compassion on him. Is that your immediate reaction to cultural outsiders? Why or why not?
- How can you change the way you interact with people that are different than you to better reflect Jesus?
- One of the things Tyler spoke a lot about this weekend is racism. How is racism a sin?
- What can you and your group do to help fight this kind of sin? In your lives? In our city?

### **ACTION STEPS**

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*Gospel Reading for This Week*

- Monday: Luke 10:25-42
- Tuesday: Luke 11:1-32
- Wednesday: Luke 11:33-54
- Thursday: Luke 12:1-34
- Friday: Luke 12:35-59

## SESSION 2

January 20 & 21  
WEEKEND

# RELIGIOUS OUTSIDERS

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### BIG IDEA

Jesus was sent to be the Messiah for the Jews. Yet it became quickly clear that He came for everyone.

### GROUP OPENER

What has been your interaction with people of other religions? Most of us have been raised in a predominantly Christian environment. How has exposure to those of other religious backgrounds changed you?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- Why do so many people have difficulty dealing with people of other religions? As our nation becomes more pluralistic, why is it important that we learn how to better navigate this issue?
- Read John 4:4-26. Why was it significant that Jesus was willing to talk to a Samaritan?
- One of the major issues of Jesus' time was legalism. The leading teachers of Jesus' time were obsessed with avoiding sin and becoming unclean. Yet in doing that they missed the point of God's message. Have you ever met Christians like that? Have you been that Christian?
- The woman Jesus spoke to was a sinner by any measure. Yet, Jesus was willing to speak directly to her. What does this say about how we are to deal with those in sin?
- Some may read this as an example where Jesus doesn't take sin very seriously. Do you think this is the case?
- When dealing with religious outsiders, Jesus always spoke truth *in love*. He balanced it perfectly. Why is this such a challenge for us?
- When dealing with religious outsiders do you tend to lean more heavily toward truth or love?
- How can you work to balance your approach to those living outside of God's plan for their life?

### ACTION STEPS

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*On Your Own*

- Think of someone who you interact with on a regular basis who would be considered a "religious outsider." How can you change the way you interact with them? How can you balance truth in love?

*Gospel Reading for This Week*

- Monday: Luke 13
- Tuesday: Luke 14
- Wednesday: Luke 15
- Thursday: Luke 16
- Friday: Luke 17

## SESSION 3

January 27 & 28  
WEEKEND

# JESUS & WOMEN

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### BIG IDEA

In a deeply patriarchal society, Jesus affirmed the humanity and dignity of every woman he interacted with.

### GROUP OPENER

If you have much church experience, what has been your experience with women inside the Church? How has this disappointed or informed you?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- How does that teaching of Jesus seem to be regressive or backward looking to you?
- The society that Jesus lived in was incredibly patriarchal. The daily prayers for Jewish men in the first century included the phrase, "Praised be God that he has not created me a woman." How does this change impact understanding of the place and time where Jesus taught?
- Jesus refused to treat women as inferior. Think about the story of the Samaritan woman. How is it significant that Jesus sat down and had a conversation with her? What risks was Jesus taking by talking to her in this way?
- Read Luke 8:43-48. In Jesus' time, women going through menstruation were considered incredibly unclean. So this woman in the crowd would have always been considered sinful and impure. Yet Jesus didn't see that. He saw her. How did Jesus give this woman dignity and respect in this experience?
- Jesus tells her to "go in peace." How does this show Christ's compassion toward her? Do you think he understands her situation?
- Think of the story of Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42). These women were clearly disciples of Jesus. What does this say about the early followers of Jesus?

- The Gospel is the good news of the resurrected Christ. Women were the first to share this message to the Apostles. Why do you think this is so? What does this say about gender when sharing the message of Christ?

### ACTION STEPS

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*Gospel Reading for This Week*

- Monday: Luke 18:1-17
- Tuesday: Luke 18:18-43
- Wednesday: Luke 19:1-27
- Thursday: Luke 19:28-48
- Friday: Luke 20:1-27

## SESSION 4

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# JESUS & MEN

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### **BIG IDEA**

In a world dominated by toxic definitions of manhood, Jesus shows men a better way.

### **GROUP OPENER**

For the men in your group - what was your primary example of manhood in your life? For the women in your group - what does masculinity look like to you?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- The world has a lot of definitions of what it means to be a man. As a group, come up with a list of words or phrases that describe masculinity?
- How does Jesus define what it means to be a man?
- Today's man, in the world's definition, is dominated by his appetites. How does Jesus repudiate this?
- Many men today see women as there to satisfy their needs (both physical and emotional). How does Jesus speak against this?
- Most men today are defined by their work. What does Jesus say we should be defined by?
- How would the world look differently if our culture defined manhood in a Biblical way?
- How would your everyday life look differently if you defined manhood in a Biblical way?

### **ACTION STEPS**

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*Gospel Reading for This Week*

○ Monday: Luke 20:28-47

○ Tuesday: Luke 21

○ Wednesday: Luke 22:1-30

○ Thursday: Luke 22:31-71

○ Friday: Luke 23:1-25

## **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

	<b>Who's Hosting the Discussion?</b>	<b>Where are you Meeting?</b>	<b>Who's Bringing Snacks?</b>
<b>Session 1</b> <b>Jan. 13 &amp; 14</b>			
<b>Session 2</b> <b>Jan. 20 &amp; 21</b>			
<b>Session 3</b> <b>Jan. 27 &amp; 28</b>			
<b>Session 4</b> <b>Feb. 3 &amp; 4</b>			



## 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 14: Week of January 14

○Monday: Luke 10:25-42

○Tuesday: Luke 11:1-32

○Wednesday: Luke 11:33-54

○Thursday: Luke 12:1-34

○Friday: Luke 12:35-59

### Week 15: Week of January 21

○Monday: Luke 13

○Tuesday: Luke 14

○Wednesday: Luke 15

○Thursday: Luke 16

○Friday: Luke 17

### Week 16: Week of January 28

○Monday: Luke 18:1-17

○Tuesday: Luke 18:18-43

○Wednesday: Luke 19:1-27

○Thursday: Luke 19:28-48

○Friday: Luke 20:1-27

### Week 17: Week of February 4

○Monday: Luke 20:28-47

○Tuesday: Luke 21

○Wednesday: Luke 22:1-30

○Thursday: Luke 22:31-71

○Friday: Luke 23:1-25