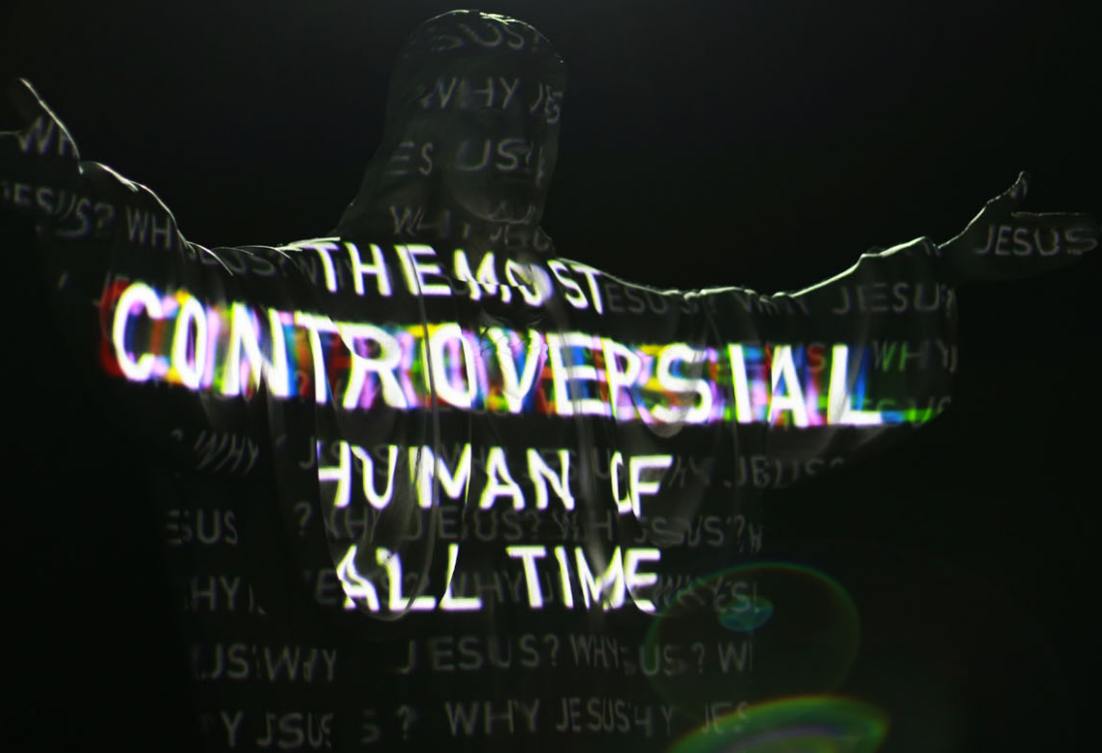


WHY JESUS?

WHYJESUS.INFO



WHY JESUS

SERIES 5 | THE JESUS I WISH I KNEW

Sermon Based Small Group Study

February & March 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

February 17 & 18
WEEKEND

PRESIDENT JESUS

BIG IDEA

When Jesus is invoked on every side of the political discussion, Jesus stands on the side of love.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you ran for election for something. Maybe it was student council in school or for your HOA. What was that experience like?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- When Jesus arrived on the scene, the people of Israel were looking for a political leader to free them from political oppression, but that's not what Jesus came to do. Knowing what you do about the history of God's people, why do you think that they were looking for a political hero?
- Instead of political freedom, Jesus unleashed the Kingdom of God. Why do you think some people were disappointed with that?
- Often we are guilty of seeking political answers to spiritual questions. Why do we resort to this? Why is this the easiest method for us?
- Read Matthew 4:8-10. In this passage, Satan tempts Jesus with power. Yet, Jesus resists. He wants to accomplish God's Will, God's way. What does this say about what God is really concerned about in the world? Power? Success? Something else?
- We are often so focused on greatness, but Jesus defines greatness in a completely different way from the world. Read Mark 9:35-37. How does Jesus define greatness?
- Is this how you define greatness or success in your life? Why or why not?
- We all want to leave a legacy. Why does Jesus' legacy last through millennia but others' fades away?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

○ Monday: John 3

○ Tuesday: John 4

○ Wednesday: John 5

○ Thursday: John 6:1-21

○ Friday: John 6:23-71

SESSION 2

with Dr. Mark Moore

DOCTOR JESUS

February 24 & 25
WEEKEND

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Great Physician. Sooner or later, everyone needs to go to the doctor.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you put off going to the doctor and you shouldn't have. Maybe it was for a tooth or a broken arm that needed to be fixed. What was the outcome?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Jesus is often referred to as a healer. Clearly He physically healed many people. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal people of their illnesses and maladies?
- How does Jesus show us his empathy with the human condition by healing people of their illnesses?
- Jesus also healed people in other ways. What are some examples of this in Scripture?
- Read Mark 1:40-45. A leper was a pariah in their community. How does Jesus give this man dignity?
- What are some of the other ways that Jesus healed this man?
- Share with your group some ways that your relationship with Jesus has healed you.
- In John 5:6, Jesus is talking to a man who can't walk and he asks him "Do you want to be well?" We cannot be healed if we don't ask. What are some of the things you need to bring to Jesus in your life right now?

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: John 7:1-36
- Tuesday: John 7:37-53
- Wednesday: John 8:1-30
- Thursday: John 8:31-59
- Friday: John 9

SESSION 3

March 3 & 4
WEEKEND

JESUS THE ARTIST

BIG IDEA

Jesus was not merely a great speaker and teacher, He could be considered an artist.

GROUP OPENER

Share a time when you encountered a work of art that greatly impacted you. Maybe it was an incredible painting, sculpture, piece of music, or a film. Art has a way of moving us in ways that other forms of expression cannot.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Art (in whatever form) is successful in helping us to understand concepts that can't often be put into words. How did Jesus do this through His teaching?
- One of the ways that Jesus can be considered an artist is in His use of parables and word pictures in His teaching. Do you feel that these are considered to be artistic expressions?
- In Mark 4, Jesus uses the concept of planting seeds to draw a picture of the Kingdom of God. How does his use of this metaphor enlighten what He is really trying to say?
- How does Jesus' use of parables help him to convey topics that would normally be overly complex to average people?
- How does art help us to convey the message of Jesus to our world?
- Vincent Van Gogh wrote, "He [Jesus] lived serenely, as an artist greater than all other artists, scorning marble and clay and paint, working in the living flesh. In other words, this peerless artist, scarcely conceivable with the blunt instrument of our modern, nervous and obtuse brains, made neither statues nor paintings nor books. He maintained in no uncertain terms that he made...living men, immortals." How is this true? How is humanity Christ's work of art?

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

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 Feb. 17 & 18			
Session 2 Feb. 24 & 25			
Session 3 Mar. 3 & 4			

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 19: Week of February 18

- Monday: John 3
- Tuesday: John 4
- Wednesday: John 5
- Thursday: John 6:1-21
- Friday: John 6:23-71

Week 20: Week of February 25

- Monday: John 7:1-36
- Tuesday: John 7:37-53
- Wednesday: John 8:1-30
- Thursday: John 8:31-59
- Friday: John 9

Week 21: Week of March 4

- Monday: John 10
- Tuesday: John 11:1-44
- Wednesday: John 11:45-57
- Thursday: John 12:1-19
- Friday: John 12:20-50