

Notes for Home Groups: Who is Jesus? (Alpha 2) Sunday 15 January 2017

Intro

Today, our identity is proved by state records, passports, bank accounts, and pin numbers; and it is possible to have your identity 'stolen'. If the aforementioned records were obliterated, how would you prove you are who you say you are?

1. "And who do you say I am?" asked Jesus of his disciples (Matt 16: 15), and the question is just as fresh, just as important, just as challenging and relevant for us today, and for everyone. As Christians, if asked who Jesus was (or is), we would probably reply the Son of God, or the Messiah/Christ, or my Lord and Saviour, or even one part of the Holy Trinity that is God.

- a. Would you expect any of these answers alone would satisfy the questioner?
- b. How would you explain in secular language whichever of the above terms was used?
- c. Would you expect the average person you might meet on the street to know who Jesus is/was?
- d. If this person you met was age 35 or less, would your expectation change. If so, why?

2. Who did Jesus say he was? Read John 14: 6-11

- a. Verse 6. An absolutely key promise of Jesus. Try as a group to paraphrase this verse using your own words with the intention of drawing out the meaning and importance for non-believers.
- b. Jesus is in effect saying - knowing me means knowing the Father, look at me and you will see the perfect image of God. Has Jesus shown us enough? Do we have enough information with which to live as followers or do we need clarification?
- c. What would you have liked Jesus to say which he did not?

3. Read John 6: 35-40

- a. Why do you think using 'bread of life' was both a very effective and evocative picture for Jesus' audience?
- b. Rather than use 'bread', what would you use to update this picture?

4. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is very hard for many non-believers to accept, yet it is acknowledged as the cornerstone of Christianity.

- a. Why do you think that Christ's resurrection is so fundamentally important?
- b. Do you think accepting that Christ rose from the dead requires a blind leap of faith?

Read 1 Corinth 15: 1-8

- c. In addition to the evidence of witnesses who meet with Jesus at the time, to what evidence would you point to prove his resurrection?

5. Whether long-time Christian or just starting out, do you think your personal story/journey of faith, or how/why you now know Jesus would be interesting to those seekers enquiring about Christianity?

- a. If your answer is yes, then have you thought about how you would effectively tell that story? What would you include or exclude?
- b. Perhaps some in the group might like to try and tell their story?

Prayer

If ask'd, what of Jesus I think?

Though still my best thoughts are but poor,

I say, He's my meat and my drink.

My life, and my strength, and my store;

My shepherd, my husband, my friend,

My saviour from sin and from thrall;

My hope from beginning to end,

My portion, my Lord, and my all.

(John Newton)