

## **Week 1 Introduction & Who is Jesus?**

During this term, we will be sharing the Christianity Explored course together. We hope that the course will be a real blessing to you as it simply and clearly lays out the gospel of Jesus Christ, thereby strengthening your faith and giving you more confidence to share it with others.

The course will invite you to explore three basic questions that cut right to the heart of Christianity: **Who is Jesus? Why did He come? What is involved in following Him?**

We will also invite you to read part of the gospel of Mark as homework each week in preparation for the following study. By the end of the term, we will all have read through the gospel of Mark together.

This week we will be covering two lessons: *The Introduction*, as well the first key question: *Who is Jesus?*

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### **Introduction**

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 1: Introduction (12 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **5 minutes**, discuss the following questions (time permitting):

*What evidence could you point people to in order to know that God exists?*

The creation speaks of a Creator – eg the order of the universe, the beauty of the world and the incredible design of the human body (Rom 1:20). There is also the nagging sense that something is missing and that nothing we do or achieve will fully satisfy us - God has designed life to be lived in relationship with Him.

*How do some people view Christianity? How should we view Christianity?*

People view Christianity in all sorts of ways. Some think it is make-believe and that there is no God. Some see it as a set of rules for living a good life, a list of commandments so that we can go to heaven or just one of a number of ways that we can get in touch with our spiritual side. But Christianity, at its core, is about being able to have a relationship with God (John 17:3).

*If you could ask God one question, and you knew it would be answered, what would it be? Ask the group if anyone would like to share their question...*

**Summary: Christianity is about being able to have a relationship with God.**

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### **Jesus – Who was He?**

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 2: Jesus – Who was He? (21 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for the next **5-10 minutes**, discuss the following questions (time permitting):

*What is your view of Jesus? How do others view Jesus, and how do you respond to them?*

*What blocks of evidence has Mark presented us with to demonstrate that Jesus speaks and acts with God's authority?*

Jesus demonstrates God's power and authority:

- To teach (Mark 1:21-22)
- Over sickness (Mark 1:29-31)
- Over nature (Mark 4:35-41)
- Over death (Mark 5:35-42)
- To forgive sins (Mark 2:1-12)

*How reasonable is the following statement? "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher... Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse."*

**Summary: It's important to get Jesus' identity right – otherwise we will relate to Him in the wrong way. He is the Son of God.**

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*Homework:* Read Mark 1:1-5:43 in preparation for next week (this is the largest amount of homework for the course because we are effectively doing two lessons in one this week. But, if you read one chapter a day, you will have no problems in completing it).

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## Christianity Explored Lesson Summaries:

### Introduction:

*"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1)*

- There are many reasons to suspect that God might exist: the order of the universe, the beauty of the world and the incredible design of the human body. There's also the nagging sense that nothing we do or achieve will fully satisfy us, that something is missing in life.
  - But how can we know for sure that God exists? We would need Him to introduce Himself. And according to Mark, that's exactly what God has done. In order to introduce Himself to us, He has become a man; the person we call Jesus Christ.
  - Christianity is about being able to have a relationship with God. That's why "the gospel about Jesus Christ" is good news.
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### Jesus – Who is He?

*"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" (Mark 4:41)*

- It's important to get Jesus' identity right – otherwise we'll relate to Him in the wrong way.
  - Mark presents us with five blocks of evidence, five different areas in which Jesus demonstrated the power and authority of God.
  - Jesus demonstrated power and authority:
    - To teach (Mark 1:21-22)
    - Over sickness (Mark 1:29-31)
    - Over nature (Mark 4:35-41)
    - Over death (Mark 5:35-42)
    - To forgive sins (Mark 2:1-12)
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## **Week 2 Jesus: Why Did He Come?**

**Aim:** To explore why Jesus came to our world.

**Revision:** *In one sentence, what is Christianity all about?* Christianity is about being able to have a relationship with God.

*Who is Jesus, and what evidence does Mark present to demonstrate that Jesus acts with God's power and authority?* Jesus is the Son of God. Mark presents five different areas in which Jesus demonstrated God's power and authority: (1) in His teaching; (2) over sickness; (3) over nature; (4) over death; and (5) to forgive sins.

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### **Reflections on homework reading from Mark 4 & 5.**

For the next **15-20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising out of last week's homework.

*What do we see Jesus exercising power and authority over in Mark 4 & 5?*

We see Jesus exercising power and authority: (a) over nature, even at its most violent (the storm); (b) over powerful evil spirits (the demoniac); (c) over serious illness (the sick woman); and (d) over death.

*How do the disciples react in Mark 4:37-41, and how does Jesus assess their reaction?*

The disciples are afraid they are going to drown. Jesus says they are afraid because they have no faith.

*What is the reaction of the townspeople after Jesus heals the demoniac (Mark 5:14-15)?*

The townspeople became frightened (afraid) when they saw that Jesus had healed the demoniac.

*What is the situation of the woman in Mark 5:25-28, and how does Jesus assess her reaction (5:34)?* The woman's condition is desperate – she has had this disease for twelve years. But she comes to Jesus, and is healed when she touches His cloak. Jesus says that her faith has healed her.

*What is the situation of Jairus in Mark 5:35? How does Jesus ask Him to respond in 5:36?*

Jairus' daughter is dead and the situation seems hopeless. But Jesus tells him not to be afraid but to believe (ie to have faith).

*What do these situations teach us about Jesus?*

He not only has compassion for people in need, but He has no difficulty in dealing with the most extreme, most hopeless situations. He acts with God's power and authority.

*What are the two different ways people responded in each of these circumstances?*

In all cases, people respond with either fear or faith. When we fear, it shows we have a lack of faith. *Are there things that you fear? What do you think this says about your faith?*

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### **Jesus: Why Did He Come?**

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 3: Jesus: Why Did He Come? (16 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *What do you think about the statement: "The reason there is something wrong with the world is because there is something wrong with us."*
- *How would you feel if your every thought, word and action was displayed on the walls for everyone to see? How do you think God feels about these things (since He sees everything)?*
- *What's your reaction to Mark 9:43-48?*
- *Do you agree that we are all in danger? What is the primary reason we need Jesus? What stops us from having a greater sense of urgency and priority in sharing this with others?*

**Summary: Our sin places us in danger of God's judgement. Jesus came to rescue us from our sin.**

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*Homework:* Read Mark 6:1-8:29 in preparation for next week.

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Jesus: Why Did He Come?**

*"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)*

- The reason that the world is not as it should be is because we are not as we should be.
  - When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). But none of us have lived like that.
  - We've all rebelled against God, and the Bible calls this "sin".
  - Jesus tells us that "sin" comes "from within," from our "hearts" (Mark 7:20-22).
  - This means that we're all in danger, whether we realise it or not (Mark 9:43-47).
  - Jesus came to rescue us from our sin.
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## Week 3 Jesus: His Death

**Aim:** To explore the significance of Jesus' death.

**Revision:** *Why is there something wrong with the world?* The reason there is something wrong with the world is because there is something wrong with us. All kinds of wickedness and sin come from out of our hearts (Mark 7:20-22).

*Why did Jesus come?* Our sin places us in danger of God's judgement. Jesus came to rescue us from our sin (Mark 10:45).

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### Reflections on homework reading from Mark 6-8.

For the next **15 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising out of last week's homework.

*What displays of Jesus' power and authority do we see in Mark 6-8?*

We see Jesus (a) able to feed crowds of 5,000 and 4,000 people from only a handful of provisions; (b) able to heal the blind and deaf and mute; and (c) able to walk on water.

*How are people responding to Jesus as they see His power and authority?*

Many people are utterly amazed at what Jesus is doing and seem excited to be around Him (Mark 7:36-37). People are speculating about who He might be, but most seem to be nowhere near the right answer (Mark 6:14-16). Others, however, are suspicious and offended by what they see (Mark 6:1-6, 8:11).

*According to Jesus, what is the real need of the people?*

- Mark 6:34: They (and we) are like sheep without a shepherd - lost and in need.
- Mark 7:14-23: They (and we) have hearts out of which spring all kinds of evil – this means that at the deepest level, they (and we) are "unclean" before God. In other words, we are unacceptable to God and are unable to enter His holy presence.

*In view of all that Jesus has said and done, what is so surprising about the responses of the disciples during much of this time? eg Mark 6:51-52, 7:17-18, 8:4...*

Despite all they have seen of Jesus, they still don't seem to understand who Jesus is, what He can do or what He is saying, even though they are starting to finally realise that He is the Christ (8:29). *Are we like that sometimes? In what ways?*

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### Jesus: His Death

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 4: Jesus: His Death (20 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *How does it make you feel knowing that God is angry with your sin?*
- *Can you identify with any of the reactions to Jesus' death on the cross?*
- *Jesus said He came "to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). How does it make you feel to hear that Jesus came to take God's judgement for your sin?*
- *What sort of response do you think we should have towards Jesus knowing that, when He died, He was abandoned by God so that we never need to be?*

**Summary: Jesus died to bear God's anger and judgement for our sin. He was abandoned by God so that (through faith in Him) we need never to be.**

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*Homework:* Read Mark 8:30-10:52 in preparation for next week.

## Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:

### Jesus: His Death

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

- Jesus went to His death willingly and quite deliberately. In fact, He knew it was necessary.
  - As Jesus died on the cross, the darkness that fell was a sign of God's anger and judgement. And Jesus' cry – "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34) – shows that Jesus was abandoned by God.
  - He was abandoned so that we need never be. He died taking the anger and judgement that our sin deserves. God was sacrificing Himself by sending His Son to die in our place.
  - As Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. This illustrates the fact that Jesus' death opens the way for sinful people to come into God's presence.
  - Mark records the reactions of those who witness Jesus' death:
    - the busy soldiers (Mark 15:24)
    - the self-satisfied religious leaders (Mark 15:31-32)
    - the cowardly Pontius Pilate (Mark 15:15)
    - the detached bystander (Mark 15:35-36)
    - the Roman centurion, who recognised that Jesus was "the Son of God" (Mark 15:39)
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## Week 4 What is Grace?

**Aim:** To explore what grace (God's grace) is all about.

**Revision:** *Why did Jesus die?* Jesus died to take upon Himself the anger and judgment that our sin deserves. He was punished and abandoned, in order to bear the penalty for our sins (Isa 53:5-6).

*What is the significance of the tearing of the curtain temple from top to bottom at the moment Jesus died?* This signifies the fact that Jesus' death opens the way for sinful people to come into God's presence, for through what Christ did for us at the cross, our sins are forgiven, and we are made right with God.

*How did people react to Jesus' death? (Mark records the reaction of the soldiers, the religious leaders, Pilate, the bystanders, and the Roman centurion). What is your reaction to Christ's death?*

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### Reflections on homework reading from Mark 8:30 - 10:52.

For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising out of last week's homework.

*Jesus predicts His own death three times. What does He say "must" and "will" happen? (see Mark 8:31, 9:31 and 10:33-34)*

- He must suffer, be rejected by the religious leaders, be killed and, three days later, rise again.
- He will be betrayed, and handed over to the Gentiles (ie, the Romans) by the religious leaders.
- He will be mocked, spat on, flogged and killed.

*Why must Jesus die? (see Mark 10:45)*

Jesus must suffer and die as a ransom for many.

*Three times Jesus predicts His own death and Mark records the disciples' response each time.*

*How do the disciples respond and why? (see Mark 8:32-33; 9:33-35; 10:35-45)*

Each time Jesus tells His disciples about His death, an incident immediately follows that shows that the disciples have not understood His teaching:

- Peter rebukes Jesus because He hasn't understood that Jesus must suffer and die.
- The disciples argue about who is the greatest, because they haven't understood Jesus' teaching on serving.
- James and John want to sit next to Jesus in His glory, because they haven't learned to put others first.

*What has Jesus taught the disciples that following Him will mean? (see Mark 8:34)*

They must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him.

*Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ (that is, God's anointed King), but he doesn't yet behave as if that were true (see Mark 8:32). How should he have behaved? How should you behave towards Jesus?*

Clearly, it is inappropriate to rebuke a king, not the least God's anointed King. Peter should by now have learned to trust Jesus. He should have denied his own preconceived ideas and learnt to follow Jesus.

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### What is Grace

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 5: What is Grace? (15 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **15 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *How do most people respond to injustice; with judgment or grace? If you were in the bishop's place, would you have spared Valjean from justice and given him the silver candlestick as well?*
- *Has grace made a difference to your view of God?*
- *What do people generally do to be accepted by God, if they bother at all?*
- *Why do we find it so hard to accept God's grace?*

**Summary: God has behaved toward us sinners in a way we simply do not deserve. He sent His Son to be punished for us so that we could be forgiven and be made right with Him through faith in Christ.**

*Homework:* Read Mark 11:1 - 13:37 in preparation for next week. *PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **What is Grace?**

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no-one can boast!" (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- We can't make ourselves acceptable to God by doing "good things." These things may be wonderful in themselves, but they can't solve the problem of our sin.
  - We are only acceptable to God because of Jesus' death. When we look at what happened at the cross, we see God freely offering us forgiveness.
  - This is something we cannot earn and do not deserve. And that's grace: God behaving toward us in a way we simply do not deserve.
  - We don't have to pretend to be something we're not. We don't have to be constantly proving ourselves to God. God's love for us is unconditional.
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## Week 5 Jesus: His Resurrection

**Aim:** To explore the significance of Jesus' resurrection.

**Revision:** *Why can't we make ourselves acceptable to God by doing "good things"?* The good things we do can never meet God's standard (cf. Isa 64:6), and besides, we have sinned and are guilty before God.

*What has God done to make us acceptable to Him?* Through Jesus' death on the cross, God has dealt with our sins justly, and as a result, He can offer us forgiveness and acceptance.

*What word describes the way God has dealt with us?* We call it grace. Grace is undeserved favour. In regard to God, it is Him behaving toward us in a way we simply do not deserve.

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### Reflections on homework reading from Mark 11:1 - 13:37.

For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising out of last week's homework.

*What is the crowd's attitude towards Jesus as He arrives in Jerusalem? (see Mark 11:8-10)*

They are respectful, joyful and expectant - some spread their cloaks on the road, others spread branches. They welcome Him with shouts of praise. (Note: "Hosanna" is a Hebrew word meaning "Save us!")

*What is the religious authorities' attitude to Jesus in Mark 11:18 and Mark 12:12?*

They fear Him because of His popularity. They look for an opportunity to arrest Jesus and kill Him.

*As a result of this attitude, how do they treat Jesus? (see Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-17, 18-27)*

- They question Jesus' authority.
- They're two-faced: they flatter Him, but seek to trap Him with trick questions.
- Their questions are not genuine - they just want Jesus to confirm what they already think.

*The religious authorities are steeped in the Old Testament and Jesus knows how familiar they are with it (eg, in Mark 12:10 He says to them, "Haven't you read this scripture ..."). What is the significance of the detail in Mark 11:1 -10? (see Zechariah 9:9) What should the religious authorities have understood?*

They should have understood that Jesus is the King promised in Zechariah and throughout the Old Testament. Jesus is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy.

*Why then, do they reject Jesus? (see Mark 12:24, 38-40)*

They haven't understood the Scriptures or God's power because they are proud, conceited, hypocritical people, more concerned with outward appearance than anything else.

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### Jesus: His Resurrection

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 6: Jesus: His Resurrection (22 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *"Heaven is not a pipe dream, or a cruel mirage, but an amazing reality earned for us by Christ's death, and proved by Christ's resurrection" What do you think of this statement in the light of the growing number who say there is nothing beyond the grave?*
- *What are some of the main implications of the resurrection? (cf. Rom 1:4; 4:25; Acts 1:10-11)*
- *"For God has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31). What's your reaction to this implication of the resurrection?*
- *Do you believe the resurrection occurred? Are you prepared to base and build your whole life on the biblical accounts that Jesus rose from the dead?*

**Summary: Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves that He is the Son of God, the only one able to rescue us from our sins, and the one coming back to judge the world.**

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*Homework:* Read Mark 14:1 - 16:8 in preparation for next week.

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:

### Jesus: His Resurrection

*"He has risen! ... just as He told you." (Mark 16:6-7)*

- Three days after Jesus' death and burial, Mark records how the women who had watched Jesus die, go to the tomb to anoint the corpse.
  - They experience three shocks of escalating intensity:
    - the huge stone had been "rolled away" from the tomb's entrance
    - instead of Jesus' body, they saw "a young man dressed in a white robe" in the tomb
    - the young man told them: "He has risen!"
  - The Gospels alone tell us of eleven different instances when Jesus was seen after His death - at different times, in different places, to different people. He ate with them, talked with them and walked with them, just as He did before His death. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 we read that five hundred people saw Jesus at one time.
  - "For He [God] has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him [Jesus] from the dead" (Acts 17:31). The resurrection proves that Jesus will "judge the world." It also warns us that after death, people will be raised to face judgment.
  - The resurrection is a great hope, because it proves that there will be eternal life for those who put their trust in what Christ did at the cross. Everything that Jesus has promised will come to pass... "just as He told you."
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## Week 6 What is a Christian?

**Aim:** To explore what it means to be a Christian according to the Lord Jesus.

**Revision:** *How many instances in the Gospels can you recall that tell us that Jesus rose from the dead? What is the point of all this?* So that we may know with certainty that Christ rose from the dead.

*What is the significance of the resurrection?* Jesus' resurrection proves that He is God's Son (Rom 1:4), that there is life beyond the grave, and that we can be made right with God through Him (Rom 4:25).

*According to Acts 17:31, what warning does the resurrection signal?* It warns us that after death, people will be raised to face judgment, and that the risen Jesus will "judge the world."

*What hope does the resurrection give to those who believe in Jesus?* Those who believe in Jesus have the hope of eternal life through Him, as well as the hope of having a glorious new body one day.

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### Reflections on homework reading from Mark 14:1 - 16:8.

For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising out of last week's homework.

*How do we know that Jesus' death was not a mistake/accident? (see Mark 14:12-31, 48-49, 61-62)*

Jesus predicted and prepared for His death. He is in total control.

*Although Jesus knew it was His mission to die, was it easy for Him? (see Mark 14:33-36; 15:34)*

Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane and His cry of abandonment on the cross show just how hard His death was.

*What does His death accomplish? (see Mark 15:38)*

Jesus' death opens the way to God, as shown by the tearing of the temple curtain from top to bottom.

*Although the disciples understand who Jesus is, they still hadn't grasped why He had to die. What does Mark 14:50, 66-71; and 16:8 say about how people will respond if they understand who Jesus is, but not why He had to die?*

- Like the disciples, they will desert Him.
- Like Peter, they will disown Him.
- Like the women, they will be afraid and say nothing to anyone.

*Who does see and understand? (see Mark 15:39) Why is that surprising?*

A Roman centurion sees and understands. It is surprising because he was directly responsible for Jesus' death. (He was also a Gentile, whom the Jews believed would not be saved.)

*Jesus' resurrection demonstrates His power over death. What answer do you have to the inevitability of death? (cf. 1 Cor 15:54-57)*

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### What is a Christian?

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 7: What is a Christian? (18 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36). How do you respond to Jesus' challenge?*
- *Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). What is involved in being a genuine Christian? Have you ever committed yourself to Christ like that? (cf. the warning in Matt 7:21-23)*
- *"A Christian is someone who is prepared to follow Christ, whatever the cost." What do you comprehend to be the cost? (cf. Luke 14:25-33)*

**Summary: A genuine Christian is one who accepts the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour, and who submits to Jesus' authority and follows Him (cf. John 10:27-28).**

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*Homework:* Read Ephesians 2:1-22 in preparation for next week.

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:

### What is a Christian?

*"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

*(Mark 8:34)*

- In Mark chapter 8, we see that Jesus' disciples have begun to recognize who He is. Peter identifies Jesus as "the Christ," that is, the King promised in the Old Testament who would have the power and authority of God himself.
  - Jesus then teaches them that He has come to die. He knows that the only way sinful people can be brought back into a relationship with God is by dying in their place.
  - Then Jesus says, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
    - Denying self means no longer living for ourselves but for Jesus.
    - Taking up our cross means being prepared to follow Him, whatever the cost.
  - Jesus gives a convincing reason to live like this: "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36).
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## Week 7 Continuing as a Christian

**Aim:** To explore what is involved in continuing as a Christian.

**Revision:** *Who is a genuine Christian?* One who has accepted the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour, and who submits to Jesus' authority and follows Him (cf. John 10:27-28).

*Jesus says, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34) What is the cost of being a true Christian? (cf. also Luke 14:25-33) We must no longer live for self and sin, but live for Christ, and have Him above everyone and everything in our life.*

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### Reflections on homework reading from Ephesians 2:1-22.

For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions arising from Ephesians 2:1-10.

*How does Paul describe human beings in Ephesians 2:1-3?*

Dead in transgressions and sins (v. 1); following the ways of the world and the devil (v. 2); disobedient (v. 2); gratifying the desires of their sinful nature (v. 3); objects of God's wrath (v. 3).

*How is the Christian described in Ephesians 2:4-10?*

Alive with Christ (v. 5); saved (v. 5); raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly realms (v. 6); doing good works (v. 10).

*What is it that makes the difference between the person described in verses 1-3 and the person described in verses 4-10? (see Ephesians 2:4-5)*

God's grace: He saves people in His great love and mercy.

*In what way does salvation come to us from God? (see Ephesians 2:8)*

It comes by grace through faith in Christ.

*What is the appropriate response to God's grace? (see Ephesians 2:9-10)*

Not to boast because it is all God's work (v. 9); to do good works (v. 10).

*What can you contribute to your salvation?*

Nothing. (There are many who trust in their good works in order to be accepted by God. They believe they are accepted by being good enough; eg, giving to charity, not lying, being a good citizen, going to church, praying, being baptized, etc. This passage makes it clear this is not the case.)

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### Continuing as a Christian

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 8: Continuing as a Christian (14 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *What is our own sinful nature, the devil, and the world, actively seeking to destroy?*
- *What have we been given to help overcome opposition to living as a Christian?*
- *Do you trust God's promises in the Bible? Which ones do you know and rely upon?*
- *How can Jesus' words "It is finished" (John 19:30) encourage us?*

**Summary: Living the Christian life is not all up to us. We have God's Spirit, God's Word, and Christ's help and intercession (Heb 7:25); as well as fellow believers to encourage us (Heb 10:24-25).**

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*Homework:* Re-read Mark 3:1 - 4:41 in preparation for next week.

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Continuing as a Christian**

*"Jesus said, 'It is finished.'" (John 19:30)*

- Christians will face opposition: from the world around them, from their own sinful nature, and also from the devil, who wants to undermine the Christian's relationship with God.
  - There are certain things Christians can be sure of in the face of opposition:
    - the presence of the Holy Spirit, who gives Christians the desire and the strength to overcome this opposition.
    - the promises of God in the Bible that provide assurance of God's love and sovereign power.
    - Christ died to pay for sin past, present and future. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).
  - As He died, Jesus said, "It is finished." No matter how hard life gets, these words remind Christians that their sin is paid for, they're at peace with God, and destined to be with Him in heaven.
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## Week 8 Choices: King Herod

**Aim:** To explore how we all have a choice to make in regard to what we will do with Jesus.

**Revision:** *What enemies does a Christian encounter as he seeks to follow the Lord?* He will encounter the following three enemies: our sinful nature, the fallen world around us, and the devil.

*What has God given us to help us overcome the enemy?* We have the help and strength of the Holy Spirit, the promises of God in His Word, and the knowledge that Christ intercedes for us (Heb 7:25).

*What do the words of Jesus "It is finished" mean for you?* These words remind Christians that their sin is paid for, they're at peace with God (Rom 5:1), and destined to be with Him in heaven.

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### Reflections on homework reading from Mark 3:1 - 4:41.

**Read** together Mark 4:1-20, and for the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

*Jesus often taught the people in parables. Why did He do this? (Matt 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12)*

Jesus did this so that the spiritually discerning (ie, those who are humble and led by the Spirit) may understand, whereas others wouldn't. Note: Jesus fulfilled Scripture as He spoke in parables (Matt 13:35).

*In the parable of the sower, what does the "seed" that is sown represent? (Mark 4:14)*

The seed is the "word"; specifically the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*What do the four "soil types" represent?*

They represent the four different conditions of the human heart when the Gospel is preached (declared).

*Describe the four different hearts that the "soil types" represent?*

- **Hard heart:** The first represents people whose heart is **hard** - they will not receive the Gospel.
- **Rocky ground heart:** The second represents people whose heart is **shallow** - they only want to receive the benefits/blessings of the Gospel, but that is all (there is no commitment).
- **Thorny ground heart:** The third represents people whose heart is **divided** - they wish to receive the Gospel, but they also want to hold on to the things of this world.
- **Good heart:** The fourth represents people whose heart is **good** - they embrace the Gospel completely.

*What happens to the Gospel and to the people with each of these four hearts?*

- In the 1st, the Gospel is not received, for people with a hard heart reject Christ. Then Satan comes and takes the Gospel away, so that it will not have any benefit for such people.
- In the 2nd, the Gospel is received with joy, but when trials comes, such people give up and fall away.
- In the 3rd, the "worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things" choke out the Gospel and it becomes unfruitful. Such people grow apathetic and even cold to the Gospel.
- In the 4th, the word is accepted and produces salvation; evidenced by righteous fruit being borne.

*How can a person hear the Gospel and end up having "no root" (see Mark 4:17)*

They have a heart that only wants to receive; rather than to yield. Their response is shallow and superficial. As a result, peer pressure, opposition or hardship will cause them to quickly give up.

*How do the "worries of this life ... and the desires for other things" choke the Word?*

When we focus our time, energy and resources on the things of this world, then we will not be able to follow Jesus. There is a choice to be made - as Jesus said, "No-one can serve two masters" (Matt 6:24).

*How can we develop a good heart?*

A good heart occurs when we are humble and broken before the Lord and His Word (cf. Isa 66:2).

*How have you responded to hearing the Gospel?*

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### Choices: King Herod

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 9: Choices: King Herod (14 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *Why do you think Herod refused to repent?*
- *John's preaching greatly disturbed Herod. How does Jesus' teaching make you feel?*
- *What is repentance and how essential is it to salvation? (cf. Acts 2:38; 17:30-31; 2 Pet 3:9)*

**Summary: Unless we repent and believe in the Gospel, we cannot be saved (Mark 1:15).**

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*Homework:* Re-read Mark 10:1-52 in preparation for next week. *PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Choices: King Herod**

*"The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her." (Mark 6:26)*

- King Herod was deliberately rebelling against God.
  - John the Baptist, a man Herod knew was "righteous and holy," repeatedly warned him to stop rebelling. But Herod would not turn away from what he knew was wrong - he would not repent.
  - Finally, on Herod's birthday, "the opportune time came." His wife asked for John the Baptist's head on a platter. Herod had a choice: he could either repent, or give her what she wanted. Under pressure from his wife, his friends and his dinner guests, Herod once again chose not to repent.
  - Later in life, Herod meets Jesus. "He plied Him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer" (Luke 23:9). Rejecting Jesus' call to repent and believe may earn us the approval of other people, but it will eventually earn us the rejection of Jesus.
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## **Week 9**    **Choices: James, John & Bartimaeus**

**Aim:** To explore how we all have a choice to make in regard to what we will do with Jesus.

**Revision:**     *What does God call all people everywhere to do (Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30-31)?* God calls us all to repent, as well as to believe in the Gospel (Jesus); especially in the light of the Day of Judgment.

*What is repentance?* It is to change one's mind about living for self, and to turn to Christ.

*What are some of the reasons why people find it hard to repent? (cf. the story of King Herod)* People find it difficult to let go of their sins, or because they do not want to lose the approval of others.

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### **Reflections on homework reading from Mark 10:1-52.**

**Read** together Mark 10:17-31, and for the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

*What would you say to a person who said to you "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"? (v.17)*

*What does Jesus say and do? (vv.18-19)*

He uses God's law (the 10 Commandments) – not because obeying the 10 Commandments saves us, but because God's law convicts us of our sin (Rom 3:19-20; 7:7), and leads us to Christ (Gal 3:24).

*The man felt he had kept God's law. Do you think he had? (v.20; cf. Rom 3:23)*

Although the man thought he had kept God's law, he was blind to the fact that he had broken God's law.

*What does Jesus point out to the man? (vv.21-22)*

He points out that he had made wealth his god. He had broken the first two of the 10 Commandments.

*In v.21, what does Jesus call this man to do in order for him to have eternal life?*

He calls him to repent (to turn away from worshipping wealth), and to follow Jesus. This is what we must all do, if we wish to have eternal life. What we must repent of, though, will vary from one to another.

*Why are the disciples so astonished with Jesus' words in vv.23-25?*

They thought that rich people were already saved, for their wealth showed that they were blessed of God.

*Why is it hard for us to enter God's kingdom? (v.24)*

We are blind to the fact that we are sinners in need of Christ's mercy; we have a wrong understanding in regard to who goes to heaven, and who doesn't (eg, in our culture many believe good people go to heaven).

*What do you make of vv.26-27? What does Jesus emphasise in v.27? [Discuss]*

It is impossible for us to save ourselves. We are spiritually dead (Eph 2:1-3) and blind (2 Cor 4:4). But God is able to save us by His mighty power (miraculously). By His Spirit He convicts us of our sin (John 16:8), and open our spiritually blind eyes to the truth about Christ (2 Cor 4:6), and draws us to Him (John 6:44).

*What encouraging words does Jesus speak to Peter? Why? (vv. 28-31)*

Jesus encourages Peter that he would be blessed both in this life with good things (as well as persecutions), and in the next life with eternal life, because he had left all (repented) and followed Christ. This passage (Mark 10:17-31) emphasises how we must repent and follow Christ to have eternal life. Have you?

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### **Choices: James, John & Bartimaeus**

*Play DVD Disc 1 – Programme 10: Choices: James, John & Bartimaeus (13 minutes)*

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *What do you desire from Jesus? Prosperity? Popularity? Pardon?*
- *What is the primary thing we should desire from Jesus? (cf. Mark 10:47-48; Luke 18:13)*
- *Who do you identify with most: James and John, or Bartimaeus?*
- *What lesson did James and John need to learn from Jesus?*
- *What choices will you make based on what you've learned during Christianity Explored?*

**Summary: Our greatest need is to seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness, and then to follow Him.**

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*Homework:* Keep reading the Bible daily. Let it be a "lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105)

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Choices: James, John & Bartimaeus**

*"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked.* (Mark 10:36 and 51)

- James and John ask Jesus for power and prestige. So Jesus knows that they cannot have understood what it means to follow Him. He corrects their thinking by reminding them that even He "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).
  - If you've already put your trust in Jesus, you may need to learn what James and John learned: following Jesus is about service; not status.
  - Bartimaeus asks for mercy. Jesus heals Him. He immediately begins to follow Jesus.
  - If you haven't yet put your trust in Jesus, you need to do what Bartimaeus did: cry out to Him for mercy and follow Him.
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## Supp 1 Exploring Christian Life: The Church

**Introduction:** Following Jesus, while rewarding, can also be hard. However, God has ensured that we will not be alone in the battles that we face when we follow Christ. What "helps" has God given to uphold us and help us persevere in the Christian life? <discuss>

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring the role of four "helps" that God has given to encourage and uphold us in the Christian life – the church family, the Holy Spirit, prayer and the Bible.

**Aim this week:** To explore the importance of the church family in the Christian life.

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### The Church

Play DVD Disc 2 – Programme 1: The Church (14 minutes)

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- Can you identify with any of the experiences shared on the DVD?
- How has the church family been helpful to encouraging you in your Christian life?
- Consider Proverbs 13:20. Do you think this verse is true from your own experience?
- Consider 1 Peter 1:22: Does this verse reflect your attitude towards fellow believers?

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For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9. Why is the Christian life hard at times? <discuss>

- v1 - we are aliens/strangers scattered throughout the world (v1), surrounded by people who have no idea why we believe what we do or live the way we do.
- v6 – we face trials of many kinds - our old sinful nature, temptations of the devil, persecution and opposition from the world.

What does Peter remind us of when we face hard times?

We have been chosen by God (vv1-2), born again to a living hope (v3), have an inheritance reserved in heaven (v4) and are protected by God's power to receive our salvation (v5).

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10. What is "the church"? <discuss>

The church is not a physical building or an organisation, but a spiritual house made up of people who have come to Jesus (they have put their trust in Him as Lord and Saviour). We are God's people who seek to serve Him, proclaim Him, and support each other. The church is the family of God (Gal 6:10); God is our Father, Christ our brother and we are God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ (Matt 12:46-50).

What is one of the purposes of the church when we gather together? (Heb 10:24-25)

It is to encourage each other in our Christian walk. We do this when we meet together to worship God, hear His Word proclaimed, pray, break bread and share our lives. We all need encouragement.

What did the church in the NT look like? (Acts 2:42-47)

The early Christians devoted themselves to God's word, to fellowship, to breaking bread and prayer together. They loved to meet with each other, encourage each other and share their lives with each other. It was evident to all that they loved one another deeply, from the heart (1 Peter 1:22). Is this true of you?

Reflect and discuss the following questions:

- Do you have a good attitude toward church as there are things about church that we can let upset us?
- Do you make meeting with God's people a priority as God instructs us to do? For example, what priority do you give to church verses a family activity, a sporting event, a job around the house?
- When you come to church, do you come with the attitude to encourage others in their faith? Do you ask yourself: who will I encourage today?
- Are you an encourager of God's people, or a criticizer?

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**Summary:** Don't go through life walking alone – walk with other Christians and commit yourself to encouraging the family of God.

PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Exploring Christian Life: The Church**

*"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13:20).*

- The Christian life can be very hard, so it is important for Christians to remember that they have been chosen by God (1 Peter 1:1-2) and that they have a "living hope": the certain hope of heaven (1 Peter 1:3).
  - When the Bible talks about "the church", it is simply referring to all those people who have put their trust in Jesus.
  - Peter tells Christians they should "love one another deeply, from the heart" (1 Peter 1:22). Without this mutual support that the church family provides, it will be hard to persevere.
  - Christians should build around them a team of wise people who will help them to follow Christ until they reach heaven.
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## Supp 2 Exploring Christian Life: The Holy Spirit

**Aim:** To explore the importance of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life.

**Revision:** *The Christian life can be very hard. What has God given to help encourage us to faithfully follow Christ? He has given us the church, the Holy Spirit, prayer and the Bible to help us.*

*What is the church, and what is one of its main purposes? The church is God's family; it consists of people who have put their faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. In Christ's church we are to love each other deeply (1 Peter 1:22) and to encourage one another (Heb 10:24-25).*

*Do we give going to church and having fellowship with God's people a high priority? Consider the first Christians in Acts 2:42-47. How do we compare to them? <discuss>*

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### The Holy Spirit

Play DVD Disc 2 – Programme 2: *The Holy Spirit* (14 minutes)

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *"I had no inner peace." What is it that makes people feel like this? (consider the quote from Augustine around 400 AD: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.")*
- *How has the Holy Spirit affected your life? Can you relate to the testimonies on the DVD?*

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For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

*Read John 14:16-18 and John 16:5-7. Jesus knew that He would soon be leaving this world. He promised to send His followers the Holy Spirit. Why?*

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit so that we would not be alone in this world. By sending the Spirit, who is also known as the Spirit of Jesus (Rom 8:9), we would still have Jesus with us, but in a more greater and intimate way than when He walked this earth - He would dwell in each believer.

*Who is the Holy Spirit, according to John 14:16-18?*

- He is "another counsellor". The word "another" in the Greek means "just the same as." So the Holy Spirit is the same as Jesus. In the Greek "counsellor" means "one called alongside". He therefore has been called to come alongside to help and comfort us; like Christ did for His disciples.
- He is the Spirit of Truth, and He guides us in the truth of Christ (John 16:13) and reminds us of the truth (John 14:26). As a result, He helps us walk in truth and not in falsehood.
- He is referred to as "Him", for like Christ Himself, He is not an impersonal force or an energy to be manipulated, but One who is personal and real. Through Him we have a relationship with the Father and the Son (John 14:23); he is not an "it."

*What else do we learn about the Holy Spirit from the following verses?*

John 16:8 – He convicts us of our sin, our need for righteousness, and the judgment of God, so that we may turn to the Lord Jesus and be saved. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, we cannot become a Christian.

Rom 8:9-11 – He is none other than the Spirit of Jesus; He is extremely powerful; and He is able to make us spiritually alive, rather than being spiritually dead (as we once were - Eph 2:1).

2 Cor 3:17-18 – The Holy Spirit is the Lord (He is divine), and one of His roles is to transform us into the image of Christ.

1 Cor 12:4-7 – it is the Spirit who equips every believer with spiritual gifts so that we can help each other for the "common good".

Gal 5:16-23 – the Spirit is at battle with our sinful nature so that it may no longer rule us; He is seeking to produce in us the pleasant fruit of the Spirit, which includes peace and joy.

*Do you have Christ's Spirit in you? Is it evident?*

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**Summary: Don't go through life walking alone – walk with the Spirit and He will help you grow in the truth, overcome the flesh, become more like Christ, and become useful in Christ's kingdom.**

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Exploring Christian Life: The Holy Spirit**

*"It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." (John 16:7)*

- The Holy Spirit ("the Counsellor") who comes to live in Christians is the Spirit of Christ Himself.
  - The Holy Spirit's work has many aspects. For example, He:
    - makes people aware of their sin
    - changes Christians from within by giving them the desire to please God
    - gives each Christian gifts to be used in the service of other Christians
    - brings peace that comes from being in relationship with God
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## Supp 3 Exploring Christian Life: Prayer

**Aim:** To explore the importance of prayer in the Christian life.

**Revision:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?* The Holy Spirit is divine (2 Cor 3:17-18); the Spirit of Jesus (Rom 8:9), the Spirit of the Father (Matt 10:20), the Counsellor (Helper) and the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17)

*What work does the Holy Spirit do in a believer?* He convicts us of sin (John 16:8); He leads us into the truth (John 16:13), He transforms us so that we become like Christ (2 Cor 3:17-18); He produces His fruit in our life (Gal 5:22-23); He equips us with spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4-7); and He is our Counsellor or Helper (John 14:16) to help us live the Christian life and to persevere to the end – He is always with us.

*Is it evident in your life that the Holy Spirit lives in you?*

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### Prayer

Play DVD Disc 2 – Programme 3: Prayer (13 minutes)

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *Spike Milligan said he prayed but he had no idea who he was praying to. <discuss>*
- *How would you describe the difference between praying before you were a Christian (assuming you did), compared to praying after you became a Christian?*

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For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

*Read Matthew 6:5-8. What key things about prayer do we learn in Christ's teaching?*

- We are not to use prayer to impress others.
- We are to particularly pray in private, alone with God.
- We are never to manipulate God in prayer for He knows our needs before we ask Him.

*Read Matthew 6:9-13. What key things do you notice about the example Jesus gave for prayer?*

- We are to address God as our Father – this signifies the personal and intimate relationship we have with God through Christ's death and resurrection. God becomes our loving and caring Father.
- We are to put the things of God as a higher priority in our prayers, than our personal requests; ie, praying for God's name to be glorified, for His Kingdom to come, and for His will to be done.
- We can pray for many things, but we should especially acknowledge our dependence on God ("give us our daily bread"), our need for forgiveness, and our need for God's help to help us overcome sin.

*Besides being our Father, what should we remember about God when we pray? (cf. Acts 4:24-30)*

God our Father is the Lord – the sovereign Lord and King who sits on the throne and rules over all things with His infinite power and might. Therefore, we should come before Him with reverence and awe.

*How should we view prayer in regard to the Trinity? (cf. John 16:23-27; Rom 8:26-27)*

We are to pray to God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we have God's Spirit to help us pray.

*Are there any conditions on prayer? (Isa 59:2; 1 John 5:14-15)*

We can pray anytime and anywhere, but God will not hear us if we have unconfessed sin in our life, and God answers prayer according to His will.

*What do we learn from the prayers of the psalmist? (eg, Psalm 3:1-4; 42:1-8; 111:1-3)*

We are to pray in all circumstances; whether up or down, downcast or jubilant. We are also to pray with our heart – pouring our heart out to the Lord (Psa 62:8).

*Prayer is a must for maintaining and growing our relationship with God, and it ensures that we remain dependent on Him. In the light of this, reflect and discuss the following:*

- We may assume that we have a close relationship with God, but if do not have a daily, regular, quality prayer time, then we are deceiving ourselves
- If our first response to situations in life is not prayer, then we are not as dependent on God as we think

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**Summary:** Don't go through life walking alone – deepen your relationship with your heavenly Father through prayer.

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Exploring Christian Life: Prayer**

*"Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." (Psalm 62:8)*

- Christians pray in order to deepen their relationship with God.
  - Jesus teaches His followers to address God as "Our Father." A Christian's relationship with God is a privileged, intimate one.
  - When Christians pray, they are praying to the "Sovereign Lord" who is in complete control of everything that may happen.
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## Supp 4 Exploring Christian Life: The Bible

**Aim:** To explore the importance of the Bible in the Christian life.

**Revision:** *What key things do we learn about prayer from Jesus in Matt 6:5-13?* Don't pray to impress others, pray often in private (alone with God), don't manipulate God in prayer, address God intimately as Father, pray first for His name and kingdom and will, and pray for our needs.

*God is our Father, through faith in Christ, but as we pray, what else should we be conscious of about God? (Acts 4:24-30)* Our Father is the Lord, the sovereign Lord, who sits upon His throne and who rules over all. As a result, we ought to pray with reverence and awe.

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### The Bible

Play DVD Disc 2 – Programme 4: *The Bible* (15 minutes)

Following the DVD, for **10 minutes**, use the following questions to promote discussion (time permitting):

- *"Mary has chosen what is better" (Luke 10:42). In our busy world, what choices do you need to make to hear God's word daily?*
- *The person who delights in God's word is "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season" (Psa 1:3). The person who doesn't is "like chaff which the wind drives away" (Psa 1:4). Which one are you? It all depends on what you do with God's Word. <discuss>*

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For the next **20 minutes**, briefly discuss the following questions.

*The Bible was written long ago over a 1500 year period by about 40 authors, yet what do we learn from 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16?*

The Bible has been inspired by God. Through God's Spirit men have written down what He has desired. This is why we often call the Bible "God's Word", to reflect this reality.

*Many dismiss the Bible. What makes you believe it to be God's Word? <discuss>*

- Fulfilled prophecies – eg, concerning Jesus (Isa 7:14, 9:1-7, 53:1-9), the present times (2 Tim 3:1-5)
- Jesus quoting the Bible – eg, Jesus often said "it is written" (Matt 4:3-10), confirming the Old Testament
- Archeology – verifies the various places and people that the Bible speaks about
- History – other books give proof that what the Bible says did happen (eg, the writings of Josephus)
- Consistency – the Bible reads as one book - about what God has done to bring us back to Himself
- Accuracy – it accurately explains our human predicament of sin and death, and gives us the reason for these things, and what God has done to rescue us (no other religious book does this)

*What do we learn about the Bible from the following verses?*

Psalm 119:160            It is truth and it is everlasting (cf. also John 17:14-17)

Isaiah 40:7-8            It endures forever (cf. Matthew 5:18, 24:35)

Hebrews 4:12            It is powerful, cutting deep into our soul (cf. Jeremiah 23:29)

Isaiah 55:10-11 It is effective and it accomplishes great things

*What is the Bible all about? <discuss>*

The Bible is the revelation of God, and what He's done to rescue us from our sins and reconcile us back to Himself. Since the Lord Jesus is paramount to all this, the Bible speaks of Him (Luke 24:25-27). It's not primarily about morality, how to live, or Israel, or end times, though these things are mentioned.

*What is the Bible for? (consider this question in regard to a non-Christian and a Christian)*

For a non-Christian, the Bible is to help us see God, our predicament, and our need for Christ.

For a Christian, overall, the Bible is for us to know God. It is also to be our foundation (Matt 7:24-25), to help us do good works for God's glory (2 Tim 3:17), and to grow us in respect to salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

*One of the people interviewed on the DVD said "I don't think I would have a Christian life without my Bible", as well as "It's my lifeline to God". Is this your attitude too? Does it show?*

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**Summary: Don't go through life walking alone – listen to God by reading the Bible daily.**

*PTO for the Christianity Explored Lesson Summary*

## **Christianity Explored Lesson Summary:**

### **Exploring Christian Life: The Bible**

*"All Scripture is God breathed." (2 Timothy 3:16)*

- The Bible contains all kinds of writing - history, poetry, prophecy, songs, biography - but whatever the style, the underlying message is the same: how we can be rescued from our sin.
  - Reading the Bible enables Christians to know God.
  - The Christian's "delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2). The Bible shapes the thinking of Christian people.
  - "He is like a tree planted by streams of water" (Psalm 1:3). The Christian is refreshed and replenished by reading the Bible.
  - "Mary has chosen what is better" (Luke 10:42). Christians must choose to make time to read God's word, no matter how busy their lives become.
-