

What is Christianity?



Part Four: Jesus

Video Summary



Key question: How is God going to deal with the problem of sin, which kept spoiling things all the way through the Old Testament?

Who is Jesus? John 1:1-3

- “In the beginning” – just like Genesis. But John is talking about Jesus (“the Word”)
- Jesus is described as “with God” and “was God” – they are both God but distinguishable. → God is one in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Trinity.
- There is no God other than the God that Jesus reveals. We can trust him because he is himself God.
- Jesus truly reveals God to us, he is uniquely qualified to do so.
- He doesn't just have some ideas about God!

Why did Jesus come?

- We need to look at two key events to work out why Jesus came – his death and his resurrection.
- It all happened according to God's plan.

Jesus' death – Isaiah 53:4-6

- Jesus' death was predicted about 700 years before he came by the prophet Isaiah.
- Key idea: **substitution** – Jesus taking our place.
- What held Jesus on the cross was our sin: he was being punished for our sin, dying the death we deserve for our sins.
- Only Jesus could do that because of who he was – a man (who could take our punishment), and God (who could live a sinless life).

Jesus' resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

- Death is the consequence and punishment for sin.
- Jesus paid the penalty for sin on the cross, when he rose he defeated death forever.
- We can have confidence that our enemy, death, has been defeated and we have no reason to fear it.

Bible Study

- How would you feel about someone taking your place for something bad that you'd done?



Read John 1:1-3

- What does this passage say about Jesus' identity?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the "Word" of God? (It might help to think about how God created the world, e.g. Genesis 1:3)



Read Isaiah 53:4-6

- How did Jesus "take up our pain" and "bear our suffering"?
- Why was Jesus uniquely qualified to be the one to accomplish this?

- V6 says, “We all like sheep have gone astray”. Can you think of any ways in which we go astray?



Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

- What does it mean to say “the sting of death is sin”? What does sin have to do with death? (See e.g. Genesis 2:17; 3:19)

- How does Jesus give victory over death?

Since, according to God's righteous judgment we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how can we escape this punishment and be again received into favour?

A. God demands that his justice be satisfied. Therefore we must make full payment, either by ourselves or through another.

Q. Can we by ourselves make this payment?

A. Certainly not. On the contrary, we daily increase our debt.

Q. What kind of mediator and deliverer must we seek?

A. One who is a true and righteous man, and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is at the same time true God. *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 12, 13, 15*