

Jesus Is My Homeboy

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Many people think they know who Jesus is. Famous people as well as non-famous people alike, where the “Jesus is My Homeboy” T-shirts, acting like they know who Jesus is. The new-school Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible. Sure, some of the things are true, but not all of it. The video you just watched proves that people really don’t know Jesus. We’re going to get back to the vintage, Old Skool Jesus. The next 11 weeks are going to be on a search into Who He is, why he came and what He’s about.

Discussion:

Here are a couple statements about Jesus, backed with the Scripture.

- Jesus was homeless and poor. (Matthew 8:20)
- Jesus, when growing up was a blue-collar worker. He was a carpenter with His dad. (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3)
- What do you think of Jesus being described as the above?
- Who would YOU say Jesus is?

Explanation:

Many people in today's culture will say that Jesus was a good man, a good teacher, a man who cared about the poor and hurting. Others will say he's Satan's brother, their Homeboy, a cool guy, a nice guy or something like that. Jesus was SO MUCH more than these things! Jesus didn't just come to tell good stories, or be nice to people, he was about much, much more.

- What do you think most people think Jesus was about?
- If you were to list Jesus' top two qualities, what would they be?
- How well do you know Jesus? Why do you think that?

Application:

- Jesus has SO MUCH more to offer than the New School answer gives
- READ Matthew 3:13-17- What do you think this means as to who Jesus is?
- FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read Matthew 3. Challenge them to see who Jesus is through that portion of Scripture. As them to see if Jesus is just a “homeboy” or good guy.

Who is Jesus?

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus said a lot about who He is. He made BIG claims. One of which he says that He is God! (**John 8:58-59**). It's like walking into a party with "God" written on your name tag! He said he came from Heaven, He said he forgives sins, he said he was sinless and he said he's eternal! He only leaves us three options as to who he is. He's either a LIAR, LUNATIC or LORD (that which he claims to be)

Discussion:

Jesus said a lot of stuff about Himself. What he said sounds pretty crazy and hard to believe, yet he had tons of followers! Those people that followed him were willing to die for these claims.

- How would you react if someone had "God" on their name tag at a party?
- Jesus leaves us with only 3 options as to who he really is: Liar, Lunatic or Lord...which one do you think He is? Why do you think that?
- Out of all the claims Jesus said, which do you think is the craziest, or hardest to believe? Why?
- READ John 8:46-- Jesus said he was sinless, meaning he never thought anything bad, said anything bad or did anything bad. Is that hard to believe? Why or why not?

Explanation:

Jesus claims about Himself are 100% true! He was who he said he was and is still all of that today! Following Jesus means you are following God! He is 100% God. He came from Heaven, spent time on earth as a man so we could experience life with him. People were willing to die for these claims. His brothers, sisters and mom at first didn't believe these claims were true, but after he rose from the dead, they were convinced!

- Why do you think it's so important that Jesus is God?
- Would your mom/dad or siblings agree with YOU if you said you were sinless? Why or why not?
- Would your family worship you as God? Jesus' family did and that is one of the single most proofs that Jesus was in fact the Lord as he said He was!

Application:

Being that Jesus is God and that his friends and family worshipped Him as God, died for this belief...what should our response be?

-FO TAKE HOME- Challenge the teens to worship Jesus with their lives. When we accept Jesus in our lives, he transforms us, and our lives change more than we ever could think!

The REAL Jesus

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus was fully human and fully God while on earth. This is a great Scooby-Doo idea. Scooby-Doo was a mystery hunter, this is a great mystery as to how it's possible.. We see Jesus experiencing REAL human emotions as well as real physical pain in the Scriptures. We see him dealing with life as we do, experiencing emotions as we do. He was altogether human and God. Here are some "proofs of humanity": Jesus was Born (Galatians 4:4; Matthew 2) , Jesus had a normal body Luke 24:39) , Jesus grew up as a boy to a man (Luke 2:52) , Got hungry (Matthew 4:2; 21:18) , got thirsty (John 4:7; 19:28) , was stressed (John 13:21) , was happy (Luke 10:21-24; John 15:11; 17:13; Hebrews 12:2;22) , told jokes (Matthew 7:6; 23:24; Mark 4:21) , and cried (John 11:35) and Jesus died (Matthew 27: 32-56) (Grew up in the ghetto...Nazareth)

Discussion:

If Jesus were fully Human, that means he experienced life like we do!

-Have you ever thought: "Jesus can't understand my life! He's never been through THIS!" If you said yes, what thing do you think Jesus can't understand and why?

-Have you ever said: "Of course Jesus was perfect, he's never been tempted to do the things I've done before!"? If Yes, why?

- What do you think of Jesus being fully human as well as fully God? Is it important? Why or why not?

Explanation:

Jesus being fully human experienced everything on earth that we have. He experienced temptation just as we have (Hebrews 4:15). He understand from first hand knowledge exactly what our lives are like. He was even tempted by the Devil himself! (Matthew 4:1-11)

- Why is it important to know and understand that Jesus has dealt with life just like we do?

- What's one thing that surprises you about Jesus' humanity?

-How well do you know Jesus? Why do you think that?

Application:

Many people try to say that Jesus was just a good man, or that he was a spirit but not a man at all. Jesus was BOTH. He was 100% God and 100% Man.

-FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to share this new knowledge with their parents. Ask them to discuss it with them, sharing how God understand what they've gone through and is the only being that can help them in their lives. Ask them to share with their parents what that means to them.

Why Did Jesus Come?

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38) Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament, not abolish it. (Matthew 5:17-18). Three themes ran through the Scriptures explaining why he came, and Jesus fulfilled each role. The Roles were Prophet, Priest and King. Fulfilling these roles is why He came. Prophet: A prophet is someone who proclaims the truth of God. The prophets of old proclaimed His truth under God’s authority, Jesus did it under His own authority being that He was God. Jesus came to convict us of our sins and proclaim God’s passion for us! Jesus was a Prophet, a preacher. Priest: Priests back in the day were the people who would make sacrifices for the people. The people would come and give their sacrifices to the priests and they would kill it on behalf of the people. Priests were mediators, who would humbly stand in the middle of the people and God. They would pray for the people, minister to the people and be there for the people. Jesus did this! He stood in the gap when we deserved death, he took the sacrifice, this is another reason why he came, to be our priest. (Hebrews 4:15) King: Jesus also came to show that He is King. He is God! He declares his Kingship in John 18:36-37. He is the ruler of our lives, he is the preacher of truth and he is our priest! This is why He came, so he could fulfill all of the OT by becoming our Prophet, Priest and King!

Discussion:

Jesus came to show Himself as Prophet, Priest and King! Each piece has a HUGE impact on our faith.

- Which of these three do you feel really speaks to you? Why? If none do, why not?
- How do you think Jesus is like a Priest Today?
- How do you think Jesus is like a Prophet today?
- How do you think Jesus is like a King today?

Explanation:

If we miss any one of these three aspects of why Jesus came, we change the truth of His life. Take away King, we have a nice tame Jesus who has no real authority. Take away Priest and we have a harsh Jesus who doesn’t care about us. Take away the Prophet and we have a Jesus who is strong and does nice things, but never says anything to step on our toes and call us out.

- Which aspect of Jesus do YOU sometimes leave out? Is Jesus your King? Is Jesus your Priest? Is Jesus your Prophet?

Application:

FOR TAKE HOME- Challenge the teens to really try to see which aspect of Jesus they leave out. Give them the “Old Skool Jesus” hand out and ask them to at the end of the day tomorrow to circle the piece of Jesus they left out

Old Skool Execution

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Part of Jesus being “The Priest” (as we saw last week) is that he died for our sins. For Him to be the “High Priest” he sacrificed Himself in our place. We deserved the death he died, because we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). He took our place (1 John 2:1-2) and died on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). Old skool executions were NO JOKE. In fact crucifixion, which Jesus was killed by was one of the most horrendous ways to die in history. The word “excruciating” has its root from “crucifixion”...that means that death by a cross was so bad, they invented a new word just to explain how bad it was!

Discussion:

After hearing how bad the death of Christ really was, I want you to think , reflect and sit for a second.

-After hearing about how painful, how bloody and how brutal Jesus’ death was, how does it make you feel that He did that for you? Why do you feel that way?

-Jesus’ death was also for others. How can we share this great message?

- How do you see this reality changing your life? How do you see it changing your attitude?

- Why do you think Jesus went through all of that for people (us) even though we are sinners?

Explanation:

Jesus died because of our sin. It was my sin, your sin that put him there. He died so we didn’t have to and so that we could live righteous lives! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we can become a “new creation” and 1 Peter 2:24 says “so we can die to sin and live for righteousness” is why he had to die.

- How can Jesus death make us righteous? (remind them of the jelly donut)

- What does that righteousness mean when we stand before God (if we’ve accepted Christ?)

-Why is that significant, or even needed? (remind them of Romans 3:23)

Application:

-We all are sinners. In fact, we are all 100% depraved and slaves to sin (Ephesians 2:1-10) without Christ. We need the cross of Christ so we can live for righteousness and not sin! It is only through the cross that this is made possible for us.

-CHALLENGE- This could be the first night these teens have heard the Gospel. Challenge them to think seriously about what Jesus did for them. Give room for them to realize their need and if they desire to know more, go there with them.

Dead Man Walking

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Without the resurrection of Christ, there would be no Christianity! The Christian faith would be totally useless without this piece of Truth (1 Cor. 15:14;18). Because of Greek education, the Corinthians had trouble accepting this doctrine. People who believed such things were considered “simple minded” by the philosophical experts of Greek thinking. Paul here emphasizes the importance the resurrection has over the entire gospel. To believe someone had been risen from the dead was totally not something easily accepted. Paul says that there were 500 people who saw Jesus after the resurrection. 500 people can’t have the same hallucination!

Discussion:

Why do you think Paul says our faith is futile without the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:14;18)?

- If you were one of the ones who saw Jesus in the flesh raised from the dead, how would you have reacted?
- Is it hard for you to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? If so why? If not, Why not?

Explanation:

- All that happened to Christ was spoken about long before it happened, why do you think it was all so hard to accept? Why is it now?
- Paul says that Christ appeared to over 500 people. Why would he feel in necessary to share this?
- These Corinthians were believing something that was counter-cultural. Do you think believing it today is still counter-cultural?
- What is Paul talking about in 1 Cor. 15:12-19?

Application:

- The resurrection is vital to our faith. What reasoning do you think there is to this statement?
- READ Acts 2:22-36. How does this explain our faith?
- How did we all die through Adam? (Think original sin)
- What does it mean we came alive in Christ? (look to 1 Cor. 15:12-19)

Why Should I Worship Jesus?

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Worship is giving glory to someone or something with our lives. Romans 11:36-12:1 talks about living our lives as sacrifices for the glory of God is our act of worship. We do this with football games, movies and concerts. We spend our money, shout our lungs out, sacrifice time and we talk about how awesome it was. This is worship. Well, why should we worship Jesus this way? Why should we sacrifice out time, money and words to the glory of Jesus? Jesus is a King, a King who sacrificed it all on our account. We should be living live of sacrifice because he lived a life of sacrifice first!

Discussion:

What have you worshipped in your life? Below are some questions to help you determine this:

- Who/What do I make sacrifices for?
- Who/What do I spend the most time and money on?
- Who/what makes me the most happy?
- If I could have anything or any experience, what would it be?

Explanation:

We as humans are created to worship. We must worship something, the question is what deserves our worship?

- Jesus sacrificed himself to show us He is worth worshipping, why do you think he is worth our worship?
- Everything will leave us empty except Jesus. He is eternal, never failing and always loving.
- Possessions, sports, movie stars, music, fame, sex, drugs, popularity all fade away, rot and have endings, when we worship Jesus, we worship someone who will never fail, never rot, never end! Why do you think this is important?

Application:

- How can we better worship Jesus with our lives?
- READ Romans 12:1-2 Does this passage help along the way to better worship of Jesus? How?
- FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read Philipians 2:5-10. This will show them what Jesus gave up for them on there behalf. Ask them to consider what they worship instead of Jesus and how they can worship Jesus.

Jesus--The Right Way

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6). The New Skool Jesus says that there are many ways to Heaven and that he is simply one path to God. The Old Skool Jesus says that He is the only way! (Show Picture from They Like Jesus But Not The Church). Paths Lead to different places (explain out different views of God/ways to get to heaven)

Discussion:

- Looking at different religions and seeing their end points, it is clear that not all roads lead to heaven. Realizing that Christianity is the only religion where God sacrifices Himself for the sake of His people and is the only religion where your works don't win you salvation changes the whole ball game.
- What other religions have you personally heard of? Did they say "all roads lead to heaven?"
- Jesus is the right way to heaven, what makes Jesus different from other "gods" or other religions?
- Other religions are steeped in what you do. How does Jesus free us from this?

Explanation:

Jesus is the only religious figure who claims to be the ONLY way to God. This may bother some people, because they desire to believe that it is in how they "live a good life"; "go to church"; "care for others" or by some other means. However, Jesus is the only way to heaven. Our sins have built a huge gap between us and God and Jesus is our bridge.

Application:

-CHALLENGE the teens to see if they've accepted Jesus in their lives. Have they believed it was by being good they would get to heaven, or have they Trusted in Christ? **HAND OUT: Picture of the cross as a bridge.**

Jesus Birth

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus had one of the most unconventional Births recorded in History! We've seen why Jesus came, what he did on the cross and how he rose from the dead. His resurrection is why we celebrate Easter and his birth is why we celebrate Christmas!! He was born in a nasty, stinky cave next to animals. He was placed in a feeding trough where he slept. He was worshipped, proclaimed and celebrated by many people; including the angels, shepherd and the men from the east. He went from Heaven and humbled himself to this lowly birth.

Discussion:

Jesus is a king, but he was born like a pauper (poor person with nothing). He didn't have a "typical royal birth" and was born in a very unlikely place.

- What does the way in which Jesus was born say about God?
- If you were a King, would you want to be born in a stinky barn cave?
- What shocks you about Jesus' birth?

Explanation:

Jesus' birth place was talked about thousands of years before it even happened...the exact city was mentioned thousands of years before.

- What do you think most people thought about Jesus with this type of beginning?
- Would you worship a little baby born in a stinky cave?
- Why do you think Jesus allowed himself to be born in such a place?

Application:

-When Jesus came, he broke all the ideas about the Messiah, yet all of who he was was prophesied about way before it happened. He changed the way we thought about God and what God was about. He came to serve us, and his birth proved this very thing.

FOR TAKE HOME- How can we live a life of humble service Like Jesus did? How can we this Christmas season make it more about helping others rather than getting gifts for ourselves?

Jesus Style #1

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he. The short guy, the jerk, the cheater...these were SOME of Zacchaeus' nicknames. He was a tax-collector for the Romans, but was a Jew. He exploited his position and robbed his fellow Jews. No one was a fan of Zach's...he was a selfish loner. Until he climbed a tree to see Jesus that is! No one would want to eat with him, yet Jesus invited himself over to have lunch THAT day! Always an outcast, now invited to eat with Jesus.

Discussion:

Jesus didn't care if this guy was hated and disliked not because of his upbringing but because of how he lived his life. He was liked by no one, because he exploited everyone.

-Has there ever been anyone you know that is such a jerk, or such a dork that no one wanted to hang with them? Who were they and what did they do?

-If you had a choice, would you hang out with that person? Why or why not?

- What shocks you about how Jesus hung out with Zach?

Explanation:

Jesus always shocked people with whom he hung out with. Zach obviously wanted to see Jesus, but was forced to climb a tree. Jesus met him where he was at and invited himself over. This encounter changed Zach and his whole life's trajectory.

- What do you think about Jesus in this story? Why?

- Jesus changed Zach with one encounter, why don't we think Jesus can change people today? (Or do you?)

-Jesus loved Zach as much as he loved anyone else, how can we love people that are hard to love?

Application:

FOR TAKE HOME- Hand out the **ZACH picture** and challenge them to hang that on their locker, or their bedroom wall. Challenge them to find the Zach's in there school and reach out to them just like Jesus. Living Jesus Style!!

Jesus Style #2

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus hung with a lot of people that most of his culture wouldn't hang out with. One such occasion happens in John 4:7-26. In Jesus' culture, women were looked down upon, as were Samaritans. This was a double trouble for Jesus. Not to mention or bad past. Jesus style ministry breaks down these "boundaries" and goes straight to people's hearts. It didn't matter her cultural background, it didn't matter she was a woman and it didn't matter that she was a sinner. He went to her and spoke to her heart and shared who He was and what he was about.

Discussion:

Jesus didn't care about cultural "do's and don'ts" He cared about people.

- What cultural "don'ts" do we have? How can we care more about people?
- Do you take advantage of times where you can speak into peoples lives? Why or why not?
- What shocks you about Jesus' not caring about cultural "don'ts"?

Explanation:

Jesus' love for people conquered all boundaries. His love never fails and when people meet Jesus, truly meet Him, they are changed. The woman at the well went right away and told everyone about Jesus, because she wanted them to know Him.

- How well do you know Jesus? Explain
- Are you so excited about Jesus that you can't stop shouting about Him and what He's done for you? Why, or Why not?
- Why do you think Jesus did this?

Application:

FOR TAKE HOME- Live a Jesus Style week. Challenge the teens to find places where they can share about who Jesus is and what he has done for them. Jesus loves people and wants people to know Him. Ask the teens how their lives can reflect Jesus, then challenge them to live that way.

He-Man Jesus

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

One of the **manliest** passages in Scripture comes in **Revelation 19:11-21**. The Second Coming of Christ will be NOTHING like His first. When he came to Earth, that wonderful Christmas Morn', he was born in a humble, meek manner. His coming was noted, rejoiced over, then seemingly forgotten. Jesus during his time on earth spent his life in servitude. He healed the sick. He cast out demons. He came to "seek and save the lost". He was a "doctor to the sick". He performed miracles. He lived his life as we should. He was our example, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct his life...as we should. Jesus didn't even come to condemn the world (**John 3:17**) but to SAVE IT! Christ came, lived a humble life, submitted to the will of the Father and died a horrific death on a cross, so that the world might be justified to the Father. He then rose from the grave on the 3rd day and conquered sin and death! He then **promised** a Second Coming. The second coming would not be meek and mild-mannered, but BOLD and INTENSE! Jesus WILL come as a King coming to claim His throne. He will spare His Children (in fact, we will be with Him in the air!) and will wipe out his enemies. Jesus the Warrior King will come down from Heaven and take over the earth. It will be so bloody, so intense, that the birds of prey will gorge themselves on the flesh of the enemies of Christ. If that doesn't scream "He-Man Jesus" I guess, I have no idea what manly is.

Discussion:

Jesus is a king, but he was born like a pauper (poor person with nothing). He didn't have a "typical royal birth" and was born in a very unlikely place. His second arrival however is very kingly!

- What do you think about this picture of Jesus?
- This Scripture is pretty graphic, what are your thoughts about Jesus' enemies?
- Does this picture of Jesus fit your previous thoughts about Christ?

Explanation:

Jesus will conquer all in the end. It is all His, and he will claim it. He will literally lay waste to his enemies and reign for 1,000 years as Lord over all.

- Why do you think it is so hard for people to believe that Jesus is King?
- In the end, every knee will bow to the Great King Jesus, how can we allow Him to be Lord in our lives now, before He comes on a White Horse?
- How can we make him known NOW, so many more people can join Him when He comes, rather than run in fear?

Application:

FOR TAKE HOME- What steps can you personally take to make Jesus your King and LORD now? (Mention the Spiritual Disciplines of solitude, study, worship etc.)