

The following discussions are based on the booklet entitled:

“Begin in Christ”

It is published by Great Commission Churches (GCC).

Copies may be ordered directly from GCC at info@gccweb.org.

Or you may download a free .pdf version here: www.begininchrist.com

Begin in Christ
- Lesson 1 -
Jesus Christ: The Person

Discussion questions

Icebreaker: Read aloud “One Solitary Life” on page 1. Have you tended to think Jesus’ life had a big or small impact in the history of the world? Why?

1. Read Luke 2:46. What characteristic did Jesus seem to have from His early years? Why do you think this is significant?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-23. What two main things were unique about Jesus’ birth? Why are this significant to you?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 and 1 John 3:5. What is surprising to you about these observations of Peter and John about Jesus’ life? (Keep in mind: these were men who lived with Jesus day by day for 3 years.) Why was it important for Jesus to live a sinless life?
4. Have several people look up and read aloud for review: John 10:30; John 14:6, John 14:8-9; John 8:57-58; John 5:18; John 10:33. What is surprising to you about Jesus’ claims in these verses? How did other people react to His claims?
5. Review question (pgs. 2-3): Why is it important for us to realize that Jesus was ordinary in His humanity?
6. Review question (pgs. 3-7): What verse(s) from the lesson helped you to connect with the truth that Jesus is God? Why is this truth important?
7. What does Jesus Christ mean to you personally?

Prayer: Pray that God would help each of us to grow closer to Jesus as we study the Bible in this series. Pray for a humility and tenderness toward receiving and obeying God’s Word.

Memory Verse – John 14:6

Begin in Christ
- Lesson 2 -
Jesus Christ: The Person

Discussion questions

Icebreaker: Read the quote at the bottom of page 17 by a modern atheist. When can you remember first thinking about eternity? How old were you?

1. Would you consider yourself to be a good person? Why or why not?
2. Take a personal inventory of the 10 commandments. Have you ever lied? Stolen anything? Lusted after another person? Used God's name in vain? Which ones haven't you broken at some point?
3. What does James 2:10 say about your guilt if you have broken even one law?
4. Read Romans 3:20 – what is the purpose of the law (i.e. the Ten Commandments)? So **if** God judged you according to the 10 commandments, would you be innocent or guilty?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 – How can God give sinners eternal life and still be holy and just, when justice demands death for sin?
6. According to 2 Cor. 5:21, why do we get eternal life (and heaven as our destiny)?
7. What does it mean to receive or accept Christ as your Lord (ie. Master or Leader)?
8. What is the single most important decision you can make as a result of this study?

Prayer: Pray that each of us would allow Christ to be the Leader/Lord of every area of our lives.

Memory Verse – 1 John 5:11-12

Beginning in Christ
- Lesson 3-
Just the Beginning

Discussion questions

Icebreaker: What is a time when you experienced uncertainty about a decision you had to make?

1. Read Philippians 1:6. What is comforting to you about this promise of God?
2. Read 1 John 5:13. What does this verse say about how certain you can be of your salvation? Why is this good news to you personally?
3. Read John 5:24. How is becoming a child of God described in this verse? When did you cross over from death to life? (Tell the story of how this happened in your life.)
4. Read Eph. 1:13-14. What do all people who put their faith in Christ receive? Why is this important to you?
5. Read Psalm 119:89 and Psalm 119:160. How are you impacted by the knowledge that God's Word is true and eternal?
6. How have you gotten the "Fact-Faith-Feelings" order mixed up in the past? What effect did this have on your life?

Prayer: Pray that our faith would be in Christ alone. Ask God to help us trust in Him, even when our circumstances, doubts or feelings make believing in God difficult.

Memory verse: John 5:24

Begin in Christ
- Lesson 4 -
The First Big Step

Discussion questions

Icebreaker: How and when did you learn to swim?

1. Read Matthew 28:19. What is Jesus commanding us to do when it comes to baptism?
2. Read Col. 2:12. How does this verse help you understand what baptism demonstrates?
3. Review the section “How” on page 35. How does this teaching make clear ‘how’ and baptism should occur? How is this different from your understanding or experience of baptism in the past?
4. Read James 1:22 and Matthew 7:26-27. What can you expect to ‘reap’ if you know what God commands and decide not to do it?
5. Read Matthew 7:24-25, John 13:17. What can you expect to ‘reap’ if you know what God commands and you do decide to obey?
6. Review question: Which verse or teaching about baptism is new, surprising, or challenging to you?
7. Knowing the Bible’s teaching on baptism and the promises referred to in questions 3 & 4 above...What is keeping you from planning to be baptized as soon as possible?

Prayer: Pray that each of you would determine to know what God’s word says and choose to obey Him (in particular in the area of baptism).

Memory verse: John 14:21