



Why Jesus?

PREMISE:

The message of Jesus uniquely fits with the needs of our world.

1. Jesus shows us what love looks like in a world starving for the real thing.

**John 13:1-17; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:16
Matthew 7:12; 22:34-40**

2. Jesus diagnoses our need and heals our disease.

3 Realities we all experience:

- a) We all have an innate sense of objective morality.
- b) We all fail to live up to those same standards.
- c) As a result, we all live with genuine guilt and suppressed shame.

Matthew 6:12; 9:2; Luke 7:47

3. Jesus alone establishes a kingdom of peace through peace.

Without God we have no reason not to kill. With God we invent more reasons. Peace requires the authority of God AND the clarity of Christ.

Luke 6:27-28; John 18:36; 1 Peter 2:9

4. Jesus tears down the dividing wall of religion.

Hebrews 8:13; Ephesians 2:8-10; 14-16

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. When we know the teachings of Jesus thoroughly, we are equipped to help people connect the dots, between their own problems and Christ's solutions. How well would you say you know the core teachings of Jesus? What has held you back / helped you learn most?
2. Take some time to review and reflect on the message. Does anything stand out to you, surprise you, or confuse you? Discuss together.

Look to the Book...

3. Read all of **Ephesians 2**, in different translations if time permits. A) What idea or verse stands out to you the most? Why? B) What do you think Paul means by saying his readers were "dead" before they trusted Jesus? C) Not how Paul reminds his readers of who they were in relation to God before they trusted Christ in **verses 11-12**. Why do you think he does this? What do you think is the value of remembering our spiritual situation before we started following Jesus? D) According to **verses 14-16**, how does Jesus bring peace between hostile religious ethnic and religious groups? E) Review **verses 17-22**. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of churches with a strong ethnic identity? What about "messianic synagogues" and other Jewish Christian groups?

So What? ...

4. Do you believe Jesus is the answer for the world today? If so, how does that belief shape how you live? If not, why not?
5. Take a few moments to memorize and meditate on **Ephesians 2:8-10**.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching