



ALL FOR JESUS

STUDIES ON THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS BPC 2018

These 3 studies supplement our 2018 Vision Sunday meetings as we examine our direction and goals as a church.

As with any study, you'll get the most out of them if you're able to read the relevant passage and answer the questions before your group meets. That will also equip you to best encourage the others in your group with what you say. However, if some weeks you don't get to prepare, please don't use that as an excuse to not go along. Just being there is a great way of showing the group that they're important to you. Plus, the studies are designed to be useful even if you're thinking about them for the first time at your group.

Each study firstly works through the verses (section by section) so as to help build an understanding of what the overall passage means. The study then ends with a "Conclusions" section in which practical applications are considered for us as individual Christians, as well as for us as a church family. In so doing we'll discover the exciting truth that we are all involved in God's great work in the world. It's a work that is **all for Jesus**.



Colossians 1

Read v1-14

1. Why is Paul writing to the Colossians?
2. What has God done for the Colossians? What role has Jesus had?
3. What are Paul's hopes and prayers for the Colossians? What place does Jesus have in them?

Read v15-23

4. What is Jesus' importance to the world?
5. What is Jesus' importance to the church?
6. What is Jesus importance to the Colossians?

Read v24-29

7. From these verses, how would you summarize Paul's ministry? How does Jesus fit into it?

Conclusions

- From the above observations, how would summarize God's ultimate purpose or agenda for the world?

- Can you think of ways that God's agenda should shape how we live? Try and be as specific and as practical as possible.

- Can you think of ways that God's agenda should shape what we do as a church? Try and be as specific and as practical as possible.

Prayer

Use Paul's prayers for the Colossians (1:9-12) as the basis for praying for one another

Matthew 28

Read Matthew 28

1. Without getting bogged down, describe the different reactions to Jesus' resurrection.
2. In verse 19 what is the primary command Jesus gives his disciples?
3. How far reaching is this command?
4. Lots of people think that our beliefs should be kept to ourselves. What right does Jesus have to give this command?
5. In verses 19-20, what are the two aspects of disciple making?

6. What is comforting about Jesus' last statement in verse 20?

7. From the passage, why is Jesus' command still relevant today (i.e. not just a command for the first disciples?)

Conclusions

- How would you summarise the mission Jesus has given to his disciples?

- Next week's study will focus on how we can make mature disciples for Jesus. For now, try to brainstorm ways you can personally be involved in making new disciples for Jesus. Try and be as specific and practical as possible as to how this might shape our prayers, friendships, time etc.

Prayer

Share the names of specific people who would love to become disciples of Jesus. Spend time praying for them and for the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1-16

Read Ephesians 4.1-6

1. What kind of life are we called to live?

Read Ephesians 4.7-11

2. Christ has given us gifts of grace to help us live this kind of life. Who are they, and what do they all have in common?

Read Ephesians 4.12-16

3. Who is called to ministry (works of service)?

4. What is the goal of ministry?

5. How does Paul sum up the ministry God's people are being equipped to do (verse 15)?

6. What does speaking the truth in love - or speaking the gospel - help us avoid?

7. What does speaking the gospel help us achieve?

Conclusions

- How does the phrase "speaking the truth in love" broaden our understanding of ministry?

- How does the phrase "speaking the truth in love" narrow our understanding of ministry?

- Can you think of ways that you can speak the truth in love, to strengthen the faith of others at church?
Try to be as specific and practical as possible.

Prayer

Reread Ephesians 4:1-3 and use them as the basis for praying for your group and our church.