

A person in a dark suit stands on a grassy hill, looking out over a vast landscape under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The scene is peaceful and contemplative.

Hey Jesus...

Gods answers to lifes big questions



Welcome to Hey Jesus...

“Hey Jesus, thanks for the sunshine, but what about sunburn?”

Life has important questions that we would all like to take the time to answer, but we are usually so busy getting through each day we just don't have a chance. In this course we will take four weeks to look at some of the key questions that make a big difference to life.

Jesus is still the most significant individual that the world has seen in the last 2,000 years. More books have been written about him, more songs sung about him, more lives shaped by him than any other person who has lived since. He does have some answers to life and in this course we want to investigate some of those answers with you.

In each of the sessions there will be some time to discuss some questions with people at your table, and then we will hear a life story from someone whose life has been significantly changed by Jesus followed by a talk from a passage of the Bible. After the talk there will be a time of more discussion questions and an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker. You may not be comfortable in participating in the discussions, and that's OK, but we think you will get the most out of this course by voicing questions and opinions.

During this course we will make some assumptions that you may not share with us, namely that the Bible is true and what it reports is correct, that Jesus was not just a man who lived but also God become man, who died and rose again. If you have found the answers to the questions we have been asking satisfying then perhaps you may need to investigate these assumptions more, let us know and we can help you find answers.



“Hey Jesus, How come we have more friends, but less friendship?”

Discuss:

- Is it true that we have more friends and less friendship?
- How do you think it has effected our lives? Our society? Our Families?
- Do you think there is more loneliness than before or are people feeling more ‘connected’?

Passage

¹ All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them!"

³ So He told them this parable: ⁴ "What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, ⁶ and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' ⁷ I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don't need repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman who has 10 silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she finds it, she calls her women friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' ¹⁰ I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

¹¹ He also said: "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.' So he distributed the assets to them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. ¹⁵ Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him any. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired hands.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father told his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he summoned one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ 'Your brother is here,' he told him, 'and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "Then he became angry and didn't want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he replied to his father, 'Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ " 'Son,' he said to him, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' " (Luke 15:1-32)

Talk:

More Friends but Less....

Three Meals:

The Meal of the Pigs' Dinner

The Meal of the Fatten Calf

The Meal of the Goat that Wasn't

How Deeply God Loves us

Will you Come Home?

Discuss:

- What sorts of views are there of God in society today?
- How are these views different or the same as the view of God that Jesus presents in Luke 15?
- Have there been things about Jesus' picture of God that surprise you?
- Do you think it was 'fair' that the younger brother be allowed to return? Would you have allowed him to return?

“Hey Jesus, how come the more I have the more I want?”

Discuss:

- What has been the most extravagant purchase you have seen?
- How much money do you need to be comfortable:
 1. about as much as I have
 2. about 1/4 more
 3. about 1/3 more
 4. about 2x as much
- How do you think materialism has helped our society?
- How do you think it has damaged our society?

Passage

¹³ Someone from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ "Friend," He said to him, "who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ He then told them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶ Then He told them a parable: "A rich man's land was very productive. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ I will do this,' he said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods there. ¹⁹ Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." '

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?'

²¹ "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." (Luke 6:13-21)

¹⁸ I hated all my work at which I labored under the sun because I must leave it to the man who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will take over all my work that I labored at skillfully under the sun. This too is futile. ²⁰ So I began to give myself over to despair concerning all my work I had labored at under the sun. ²¹ For there is a man whose work was done with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, but he must give his portion to a man who has not worked for it. This too is futile and a great wrong. ²² For what does a man get with all his work and all his efforts that he labors with under the sun? ²³ For all his days are filled with grief, and his occupation is sorrowful; even at night, his mind does not rest. This too is futile. (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23)

Talk:

The Great Australian Dream?

A Lesson from “The Man who Had Everything”

A Lesson from “The Man who Is Everything”

Selling Yourself Short?

Discuss:

- How do think most people in Sydney would respond to Jesus’ words in Luke 6?
- What might Jesus mean ‘to be rich towards God’?
- Do you think there needs to be this extreme of either loving God or money?
-



“Hey Jesus ,why, when we have more convenience, we have less patience?”

Discuss:

- Where have you seen people’s lack of patience?
- With new technology making life easier, why do *you* think we are less patient as a city?

Passage

³⁹ He also told them a parable: "Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

⁴¹ "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the log in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck in your brother's eye.

⁴³ "A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren't gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

⁴⁶ "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what someone is like who comes to Me, hears My words, and acts on them: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn't shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The river crashed against it, and immediately it collapsed. And the destruction of that house was great!"(Luke 6:39-49)

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You have brought me this man as one who subverts the people. But in fact, after examining Him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse Him of. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, because he sent Him back to us. Clearly, He has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore I will have Him whipped and then release Him." [¹⁷ For according to the festival he had to release someone to them.]

¹⁸ Then they all cried out together, "Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹ (He had been thrown into prison for a rebellion that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, ²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify Him!"

²² A third time he said to them, "Why? What has this man done wrong? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have Him whipped and then release Him."

²³ But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And their voices won out. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand ²⁵ and released the one they were asking for, who had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

Talk:

What's wrong with the world?

“...from the overflow of his heart...”

A Bloody Good Solution

Who's Barabbas?

Discuss:

- How optimistic a view do you think Jesus' has of human nature?
- Do think a lot of people would agree with this view?
- The cross has been called 'vicious, sado-masochistic, and repellent', why do you think it is the central symbol of Christianity?



“Hey Jesus, how come the best things always have to end?”

Discuss:

- Lot's of people have said some famous last words, what has been the most humorous you can remember?
- How have you seen death presented in popular culture? (e.g. the Grim Reaper, a wall of light, etc.)



"Well, I have bad news for you, too."

Passage

³⁶ And as they were saying these things, He Himself stood among them. He said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ "Why are you troubled?" He asked them. "And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself! Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." ⁴⁰ Having said this, He showed them His hands and feet. ⁴¹ But while they still could not believe because of their joy and were amazed, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and He took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then He told them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you; that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He also said to them, "This is what is written: the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.

⁵⁰ Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. ⁵¹ And while He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² After worshiping Him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they were continually in the temple complex blessing God. (Luke 24:36-53)

Talk:
An Inconvenient Truth

The Resurrection: More than Just a Good Trick

For Jesus

For us

What's the end of your Story?

Discuss:

- How would the following views of life after death effect the way you live here and now:
 - Reincarnation:
 - Annihilation (there is no life after death):
 - Spiritual but no physical resurrection:
 - Spiritual amalgamation (everyone joins in some oneness thing/ light, etc.):
- How might the resurrection change the way people look at the world?
- Why might people dismiss the resurrection as not being an historical event?

Feedback

How many sessions did you attend?

1 2 3 4

Did the course answer your questions?

Yes No

What was the best thing about “Hey Jesus”?

What was something we could have done differently?

Would you like someone to talk with you further about questions you did not have answered?

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email: