



CHRISTIANITY REVEALED

Leaders Manuscript:

Session 2 - “What did Jesus
come to do?”

Name: _____

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Session 2 - 'What did Jesus come to do?'

Audience interaction: These boxes are used throughout the manuscript to give some optional questions you can ask or ways you can get your group interacting. They are more for use in 1 to 1 or small group scenarios.

Leaders note: Welcome people and explain the schedule for today's session.

Leaders note: Have a time at the beginning to discuss the homework readings and give people an opportunity to ask any questions. (The homework readings were Mark 1-6)

< SLIDE 1 >

In the first session we zeroed in on who Jesus is. We saw that He possesses the full authority of God as the *Son of God*. We also saw that He is the *promised Saviour* who became a man in order to save people from the consequences of their sin.

In this second session, we are going to look at what Jesus came to do on earth. We will consider not only what Jesus' mission was but also its meaning, purpose and significance.

The first key aspect of Jesus' mission was that He came to die, for the purpose of saving sinners!

< SLIDE 2 >

1. Jesus came to die

In Mark 15:33-38 we read of the death of Jesus. Just prior to this He had faced severe beatings, floggings and mockery. *Read Mark 15:33-38.*

Leaders note: Encourage the people to turn in their bibles to this passage and see the account for themselves.

< SLIDE 3 >

Earlier in Mark 10:45 it says - "*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"

- As we repeatedly saw last session, Jesus' death had long been foretold.
- And so, the very purpose of His coming was to die. He was literally *born to die*.

< SLIDE 4 >

So, with His death being at the very heart of His mission, let's consider **SEVEN** significant truths about Jesus' death:

< SLIDE 5 >

1. Jesus died by crucifixion to fulfil Old Testament prophecy

This method of execution was administered to criminals. Jesus was crucified *between two criminals* in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:9 which says, "*He was assigned a grave with the wicked.*"

- Crucifixion involved laying the victim upon two crossed-over beams. The victim was then hammered into the wood with iron nails/spikes driven through the hands and feet. The cross beams would be lifted, causing the victim to be suspended from the ground. Death didn't usually come by bleeding out but rather through suffocation.
- But Jesus died a lot quicker than what would usually be the case for crucifixion victims. This was due to the severe floggings he received prior to his actual crucifixion. Such floggings alone often killed an individual. The speed of his death was also increased due to the trauma caused by wearing a crown of thorns, and the beatings delivered to his wounded head.
- Such immense suffering fulfilled what was prophesied about him some 800 years earlier,
 - Isaiah 52:14b says - "*His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, and his form marred beyond human likeness.*"

Leaders notes: Here are some more of the O.T. prophecies of His death by crucifixion:

- Psalm 22:16 - "*Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.*"

- Zechariah 12:10b - *“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”*

< SLIDE 6 >

2. Jesus’ death was a payment

Mark 10:45 says - *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

- A ‘Ransom’ is a specified price required to purchase someone or something’s freedom.
- ‘To Ransom’ is: the act of paying a required price in order to secure the release of someone or something held captive.
- What is the price to ransom people who have sinned? Romans 6:23 says - *“The wages of sin is death...”*

To deliver us from an eternity in hell, which we deserve because of our sin against God, the ‘ransom price’ was death. A life for a life; though not just any life offered. The ‘ransom price’ required a perfect, guiltless life to be given. And Jesus met this requirement as we will later see.

< SLIDE 7 >

3. Jesus died to take our sin upon Himself

Leaders note: You could also read Isaiah 53:5-6 says - *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

- < SLIDE 8 > 1 Peter 2:24 - *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (cross)...”*
- 1 Peter 3:18 says - *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*

Jesus stood in the place of all the guilty people He represented. God can’t forgive us by simply sweeping everything under the rug.

Rather, in order to forgive, God put the sin of those who would believe, on Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross, He took upon Himself the sin of all those who would believe in Him. He took the blame for them. He was treated by God as though He had committed those sins. And He was punished accordingly with the death penalty... In doing this, Jesus died as our *substitute*.

< SLIDE 9 >

4. Jesus died to satisfy God's holy anger against us

The Bible repeatedly tells us that sinning involves a person wilfully rebelling against God and His authority. It stems from a desire to be our own god. It is also to love what He hates. So, it should be no surprise then that we have angered God. And not just once, but we sin every day and therefore provoke more and more of His anger.

- Romans 5:9 - *"Since we have been justified (made right) by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him."*

< SLIDE 10 > *Illustration* - Imagine you are standing at the bottom of a 200ft Dam wall. As you look at the wall from a short distance away, you notice cracks beginning to form that are getting bigger and bigger. In just moments the wall shatters and billions of litres of water began bursting out. You look in shock as the torrent rushes at you with frightening speed. Running is pointless as the current will roll over you in a matter of seconds. Just before the water is in striking distance, you notice the ground in front of you open and it swallows up wave after wave of the raging torrent, so that not even a drop touches your shoes.

- In the same way, God's justice and holy anger was on its way to eventually crush us. Yet Jesus stood before us

and took all of it so that we would not experience even a fraction of God's anger.

- As mentioned above, Jesus died as a substitute for those who would believe in Him. In order to free us, He experienced what we were deserving of. He was punished by God the Father for what *we* had done.

< SLIDE 11 >

5. Jesus died to give us what we desperately needed

2 Corinthians 5:21 says - *"God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

- When Jesus died, He was accomplishing a great trade. As He was dying, the sins of all who would believe were put on Him (as mentioned in point '3'). And then, His perfect life of perfect obedience and devotion to God ('righteousness') would be given to them the moment they believe in Him. This is the great trade. Our sin is credited to Jesus' account as He died in our place and His righteousness is credited to our account, when we believe in Him.
- **ILLUSTRATION** - *Our sin is like a grey shirt. It gets put onto Jesus and His righteousness (a white shirt) gets put onto us. This is how God now views the person who believes in Jesus - perfect in His sight.*
- Jesus experienced the consequences of our sin: the anger of God, suffering and death. And we receive the blessing of being able to live with God, to enjoy peace with Him now and in a perfect place called heaven. This is secured because we have been given Jesus' perfect righteousness.

< SLIDE 12 >

6. Jesus died to restore us to God

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were removed from the garden of Eden and cut off from fellowship with God. We too, who are born sinners, are cut off from God and forbidden access to Him because of our sin.

- < SLIDE 13 > Ephesians 2:12 says - *“Remember...you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world.”*
- The problem isn't just that we don't know God, but that we're counted as *His enemies*. This is because our sin is rebellion against Him. The reality is, even though we may not believe in Jesus, we aren't passive towards him, and He is not passive toward us!
- 1 Peter 3:18 says - *“Christ...suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*

Leaders note: You could also read Colossians 1:21-22 - *“This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.”* (NLT)

Through Jesus' sacrifice, this separation between God and man can be removed and we can be brought into a right relationship with God. Because Jesus died to put away our sin, we can now be welcomed by God.

< SLIDE 14 >

7. Jesus died to bring forgiveness and eternal life ('salvation')

John 3:16 says - *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

- The heartbeat of God's mission in sending Jesus was to bring forgiveness to people. Though all humanity is guilty, God did not send Jesus into the world to punish it. Jesus came to secure the forgiveness of sins and ensure eternal life for all who would believe in Him.

Personal Application: You may feel *too* guilty and like your sin is *too* deep, but Jesus came and died to save such people.

- < SLIDE 15 > Mark 2:17 - *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*
- Jesus didn’t come for ‘decent’ people. He didn’t come for people who were ‘basically good’. Jesus came for the only kind of people there are in this world: guilty sinners.
- Unless a person realises their terrible condition, they will never see their need for a rescuer.
- APPLICATION: Do *you* see *yourself* as a sinner in desperate need of rescue? Such understanding is first needed before seeing how desperately we need Jesus.

< SLIDE 16 >

Leaders note: If you are splitting each lesson into two lessons, then end here for the first lesson. If not, take a short break. Also, if you are beginning a new session here, then recap the earlier points.

< SLIDE 17 >

So far, we have seen that Jesus died to forgive and rescue sinners. But how could one man’s death accomplish so much?

Jesus’ death could accomplish so much because of the *life He lived*. (His life enabled him to be the perfect human representative.)

< SLIDE 18 >

2. Jesus came to live the life God required of us

< SLIDE 19 >

Jesus lived a sinless life

- 1 John 3:5 - *“But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.”* (see also Hebrews 7:26)

Jesus could not be a sacrifice that takes away sin if He Himself was guilty of sin! If He sinned even once, He too would be in our helpless position. He would end up being a powerless saviour who couldn’t save Himself, let alone us. To save others, Jesus *had to* be sinless.

< SLIDE 20 >

Jesus lived a righteous (pure and perfect) life

Matthew 5:17 - *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”*

- God not only requires us to avoid doing bad things, but also that we always do what is right and good.

< SLIDE 21 > We sin in 2 different ways:

1. We do what we shouldn't do
2. We don't do what we should do

Example: We *shouldn't* be filled with hatred but we often are. We *should* love and forgive our enemies but we often don't.

The good news is that though we have failed miserably in keeping God's commands, Jesus has fulfilled them perfectly.

- **Optional Example:** In Leviticus 19:18, God says *“Love your neighbour...”* Jesus goes above and beyond in fulfilling this: Luke 23:33-34 - *“When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him... Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*
- Jesus perfectly obeyed God and therefore achieved what we were unable to. He lived how God wanted us to live. The first human, Adam, failed. Every person born since, including each of us, have failed. But there is hope, Jesus has succeeded.

< SLIDE 22 >

3. Jesus came to rise again and secure our resurrection

There is another event that makes Jesus' death significant - the reality that He didn't stay dead, but He rose again to life. If Jesus hadn't risen, then His death would have no power and no significance.

In Mark 16:1-8 we read the account of Jesus' resurrection.
Read Mark 16:1-8.

Leaders note: Encourage the group/person to turn in their bibles to this passage and see the account for themselves.

< SLIDE 23 >

But maybe you are thinking, how could people possibly believe in the resurrection?

Not only does Mark speak of Jesus' resurrection, but all the gospel accounts do and note that many people saw Him (post-resurrection). Let's consider several things that support the evidence for the resurrection:

1. Jesus appeared first to *women*:

- If the gospel writers were trying to make up a story about Jesus' resurrection, they wouldn't have stated that women were the first witnesses. **E.g.** Back in the Ancient Near-East, two women witnesses were required in a court-case scenario and would thus be the equivalent of one male witness.

< SLIDE 24 >

2. Jesus then appeared to *the disciples*:

- Prior to His resurrection, Jesus' disciples were fearful and too afraid to be seen with Jesus during his trial and death. However, after Jesus rose from the dead, they become quite the opposite – bold and courageous! Both the Bible and Historical records reveal that they died standing for their firm belief in Jesus and His resurrection. If it was a mere hoax, why would they die for it?

3. Jesus also appeared to *500 people* at one time (1 Corinthians 15)

4. Jesus' body has never been found:

Another confirming factor is the multiple accounts regarding Jesus' empty tomb. Following his death, and for the past 2000 years, no one has ever been able to find Jesus' body. It has been highly sought after because Christianity hangs upon the claim that Jesus rose from the dead. Finding Jesus' body would debunk Christianity, but His body has never found.

5. Jesus' resurrection changed people's lives:

Many of the lives of those who came in contact with the resurrected Jesus were forever changed.

- We have already noted how the disciples went from greatly fearful to boldly speaking about Jesus - even to the point of being martyred.
- Another example is Paul who hunted, assaulted and even killed Christians. Then, after a dramatic encounter with the risen Jesus, his life's goal and mission became to tell people worldwide about Jesus' death and resurrection.
- And throughout history, we have seen countless people willing to suffer and even die for the truth concerning Jesus' death and resurrection. The reality of Jesus' resurrection is the reason for this.

These are some of the reasons why people confidently believe in the resurrection. Yet the resurrection becomes pivotal not simply because of its evidence, but because of its *significance*.

< SLIDE 25 >

What is the Significance of Jesus' Resurrection?

1. Jesus rose again to conquer sin and death

< SLIDE 26 > Romans 6:9 says- *"For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him."*

- Death did not have the final say over Jesus. Though He died, He was not subjected to the curse of death. Unlike the rest of humanity, He rose from the dead physically! His body didn't experience corruption and decay.
- Therefore, it says in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 - *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

< SLIDE 27 >

2. Jesus resurrection proves His sacrifice was accepted by God

Romans 4:25 - *"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"*

- 'Justification' refers to the moment God declares a person to be righteous in His sight. We have seen repeatedly the Bible teaches that we are *not* righteous. God shows that Jesus' sacrifice for sin was completely satisfactory, by raising Him from the dead. So, with our sin removed, we can be 'justified' (declared righteous in God's sight).
- If Jesus did not live perfectly, if He had sinned, then God wouldn't have raised Him from the dead. Jesus would be under the same curse as us - *"For the wages of sin is death"* (permanent death). But by raising Him from the dead, God shows that Jesus' death was acceptable and did indeed pay the penalty for sin. The resurrection of Jesus is God's public declaration that He is well-pleased and sin has been forever dealt with. His justice against sin was satisfied.

< SLIDE 28 >

3. Jesus rose again to return as judge

Acts 17:30-31 - *"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*

- The judgement of all the world on the great and final day has been assigned to Jesus.
- Having lived perfectly and sinless, he becomes the only one qualified to punish sinners.
- The end will take place when Jesus returns from heaven. During His time on earth, Jesus knew and foretold that He would return one day. The purpose of his second coming will not be like the first. He is coming to bring all his people, past and present, home with Him to heaven.

- < **SLIDE 29** > Hebrews 9:28 - *“So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

Audience interaction: Why do you think the above verse specifically mentions that Jesus is coming back for those who are “waiting for him”?

< **SLIDE 30** >

4. Jesus’ resurrection ensures the future resurrection of all people

There will be two types of resurrections on the final day:

- a) The resurrection of **believers** leading to everlasting life with God. 2 Corinthians 4:14 - *“Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus...”*
- b) The resurrection of **all the rest of humanity, past and present** leading to everlasting punishment. It won’t be just be Christian’s who will have their bodies physically raised. Both Christians and non-Christians will be raised physically on the last day. John 5:28-29 - *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”*

< **SLIDE 31** > What a sobering thought! Every single one of us will be raised up on the last day. For those who have believed and trusted in Jesus, they will be given new bodies fit for eternity in heaven. For those who have not believed and trusted in Jesus, they will receive new bodies fit for eternal damnation in hell.

Audience interaction: How does the unknown day of Jesus’ return put into perspective what should be the priority of our lives?

< **SLIDE 32** >

Leaders note: Mention the homework for next time (reading Mark 7-11). Also explain how the time of discussion is going to work.

Leaders note: Mention what the next session will be on and when it will be held.

< SLIDE 33 >

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you sum up the purpose of Jesus' first coming?
2. Why did Jesus have to 'die'? (Answers: looking for answers including points on: substitution, payment for sin, satisfying God's justice, satisfying God's anger etc.)
3. Why is it so important that Jesus rose from the dead?
4. What does Jesus' resurrection guarantee for the future?
5. As you consider how greatly Jesus had to suffer, what does this tell you about our condition?