

# Leader's Guide - International Christian Foundations

## Unit 1

### STUDY 1D: JESUS' death for us

**Bible Passages:** Isaiah 53: 5-6, John 19: 16-18, 28-31, 1 Peter 2: 24-25, Romans 5: 6-10, 2 Corinthians 5: 21.

#### Session Objective:

To understand the prophecy, events and meaning of Jesus' death.

**Connect:** The question about how your friend currently resolves guilt and shame gives them the opportunity to see they have a need that requires a solution.

Isaiah 53: Q1: He took the punishment for our sins; The Lord (God) put our sin onto him.

John 19: Q1: When Jesus said, "it is finished" he meant that his work of taking our sin and its punishment, was now completed. It was a cry of victory as he perfectly fulfilled his Father's will. Q2: 1. They did not break his legs because they found he was already dead. 2. When they pierced his side, his blood had separated, a sure sign of death. (Edwards et al, Journal American. Medical Association. 1986 (255): 1455) Q3. The man (John) was an eyewitness of these events. He writes so we can believe in Jesus. These events fulfil prophecy in Scripture about the Messiah and confirm that Jesus is the Messiah.

1 Peter: Q1: Jesus took their sins in his body so they could die to their sin. They can now live a holy life for God. Their broken lives have been healed. They have returned to relationship with God through Jesus their Shepherd and Overseer or Manager, who cares for their life. Q2: We are like sheep that have gone astray but have been saved by the Shepherd.

Romans 5: Q1: God loved us so much that Jesus died for us even while our sin made us offensive to him. Q2: They were justified so they were saved from God's wrath and reconciled to God. Make sure your friend understands "justified", "God's wrath" and "reconciled".

2 Corinthians: Go through the teaching on the study sheet with your friend and be sure they understand it and see the wonder of the great exchange.

Be sure they also understand that Jesus must be fully God and fully man to be able to save us. He can only fully represent God to us if he is fully God. He can only represent us to God if he is fully man. He is only qualified to die for us if he is sinless, and only God is sinless. All the sects such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses teach basic error about the person of Jesus so their message cannot save anyone.

### LESSON 1E: JESUS alive from the dead

**Bible Passages:** Matthew 16: 21, Luke 24: 1-8, 36-49, 2 Corinthians 4: 13-14, John 5: 24-30, 2 Thessalonians 1: 5-10.

#### Session Objective:

To understand the event, reality and significance of Jesus' resurrection.

In the Connect section help your friend identify their current source of hope, and whether it is reliable.

Matthew: Q1: On the third day he will be raised to life.

Luke 24:1-8: Q1: God sent two angels (see v23) to tell them Jesus was not there because he had risen from the dead. The angels also reminded them that Jesus told them this would happen.

Luke 24:36-49: Q1: He stood among them and spoke to them. He told them to look at his hands and feet with the marks where the nails had been; to touch him and see he had flesh and bones. Then he ate something. He wanted to confirm that he was the same Jesus who had died and that he was not a ghost. Q2: No. They knew he was the Messiah. Jesus had already told them from the Scriptures that the Messiah will rise from death on the third day. Q3: The whole verse is the answer.

2 Corinthians: These verses positively state how Jesus' resurrection guarantees our own resurrection.

John Q1: Jesus says that whoever hears his word and believes the Father has eternal life and will not be condemned. Note that "hears" and "believes" are in the present continuous tense. This describes ongoing relationship. Q2: Jesus explains how a time will come when both good and evil people will rise from the dead. The good will rise to live forever with him. The evil will rise to live forever but be condemned. Q3: Those who have done good are those who continue to hear and believe. They will not be condemned. Those who have done evil are those who do not believe when they hear. Q4: Jesus the Judge will decide.

2 Thessalonians: Q1: When Jesus comes the second time. Q2: Those who do not currently know God or are not obeying him when he comes, will be shut out from his presence. God will give them their choice. God is just. See v6. Q3: Those who are holy, (includes obeying), and who have continued to believe.

### STUDY 1F: KNOW GOD by faith

**Bible Passages:** Acts 2: 36-41, John 3: 16-18, Luke 9: 23-26, John 1: 10-13, Ephesians 2: 1-9, John 14: 15-17, 23-26.

#### Session Objective:

To realise how we can enter into a personal relationship with God by repentance, faith and receiving the Holy Spirit.

**Allow extra time for this study** because of the content and to give your friend time to respond.

Acts 2: Q1: Their sins will be forgiven and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Q2: For them, their children and for any person who repents.

John 3: Q1: We will not perish (be cut off from God forever) but will have eternal life (be with God forever) (v16). We will not be condemned (v18). Q2: They are condemned already because they have not believed in the name (the true character) of God's one and only Son.

Luke 9: Q1: Decide to follow Jesus and daily deny self, that is to no longer put self interest first but to put Jesus first as Lord. Q2: We may try to save our life by not giving it to Jesus but we will lose or forfeit it eternally. "Forfeit" in this passage means to purposely give up eternal life so we can have our own way.

John 1: Q1: Decide to receive Jesus and continually believe in his name. Make sure your friend reads the explanation of what it means to be born again and understands it.

Ephesians 2: Q1: It comes out of God's great love and mercy (v4); though we were dead in our sins (v5). It is received by faith, and even faith is a gift from God. Q2: No, it is only by God's grace and love. It is by God's gift of faith, not by anything we can do.

If a person wants to receive God's grace he must choose to do it. Use the example of giving someone a gift. They must choose to take or receive the gift for it to become theirs.

John 14: Q1: The Father will give us his Holy Spirit to live with us and in us. (v15-17). The Father and Jesus will make their home with us as well! (v23-26)

Act: Invite your friend to place their faith in Jesus if they have not already done so. Encourage them to respond, but do not pressure them.