

Why should I consider Jesus? I'm not sure God even exists. Isn't the world a better place without religion? I can't see myself becoming a Christian.

Why I'm a Christian: Jesus

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

*Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)***People:**

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Scripture & Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

i. Scripture Discussion

Primary Passages: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Read **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

ii. Sermon Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon?

For a quick refresher, watch one of the videos on this week's sermon page

On Sunday, we gave a few broadly accepted historical facts:

- The empty tomb
- The appearances of Jesus alive after his death
- The disciples believed that Jesus rose from the dead

Taking these into account, the resurrection of Jesus is the best explanation of the facts. Ultimately why do the following alternative views not hold up under scrutiny?

- Legend theory
- Conspiracy theory
- Apparent death theory
- Displaced body theory
- Hallucination theory

What questions did the sermon leave you with? If you have a question, text "DOWNTOWN" followed by your question to 91011. In the final week of this series, we'll choose a few of the texts we've received to discuss and answer.

To learn more on this topic, go to WhyImAChristian.com

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- In the sermon, we said if Jesus rose from the dead, then that gives Him authority over our lives. In light of that, what areas of your life have not been fully submitted to Jesus's authority? Ask the Spirit to reveal areas where you try to keep authority and control.
- How does the resurrection motivate you to trust Jesus even with the things you want keep control over?

- Three weeks ago, we began working through resources on FollowingJesusTogether.com. How's that been going? What has God been teaching you? What obstacles have you encountered? How can LifeGroup help?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other. **Pray** for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.