

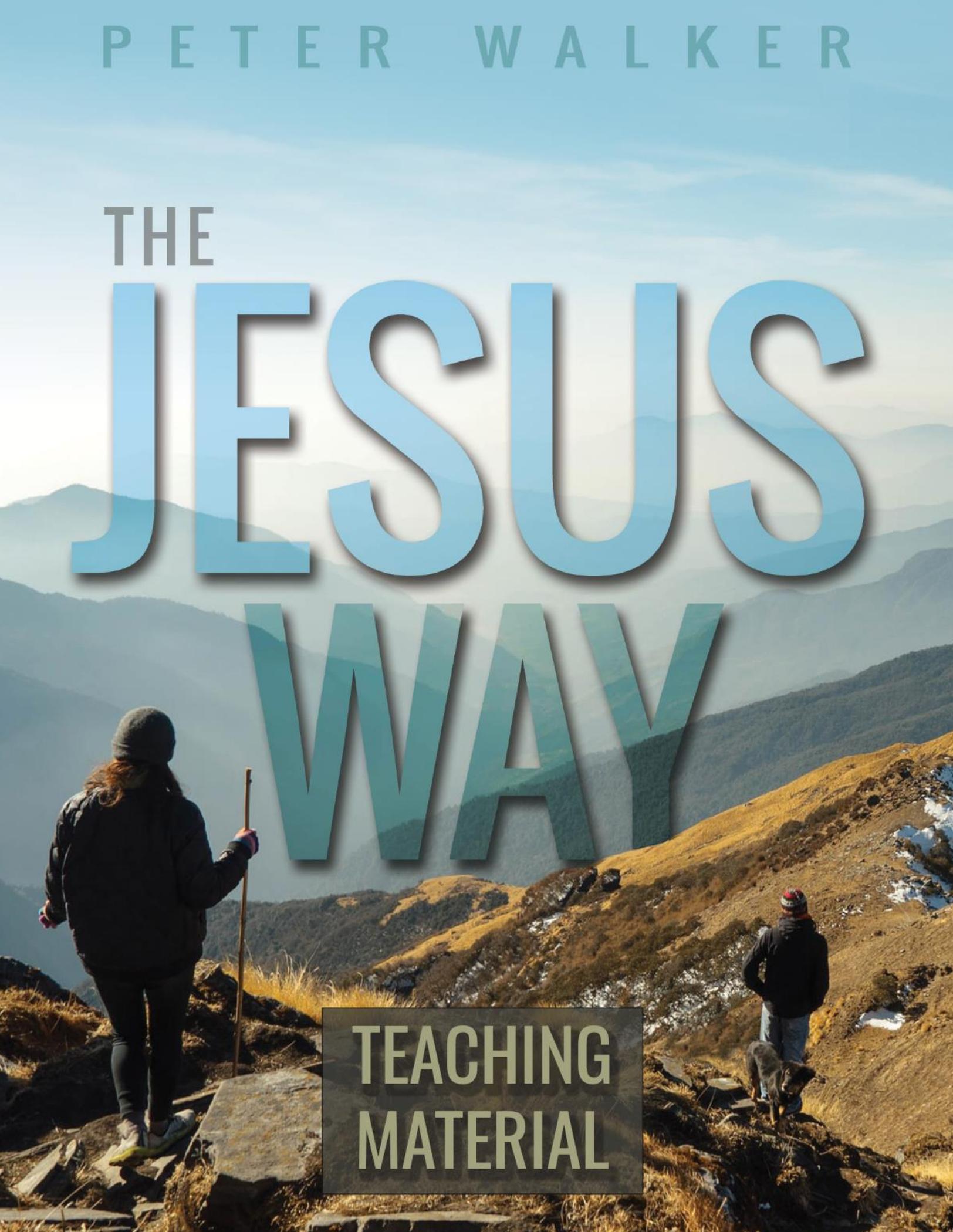
P E T E R   W A L K E R

THE

# JESUS

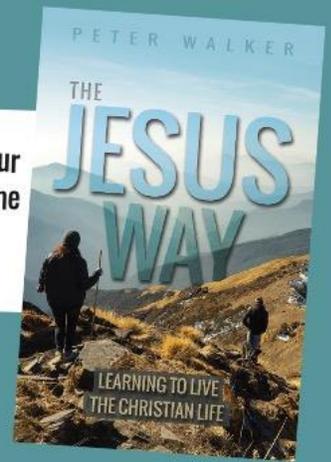
# WAY

TEACHING  
MATERIAL



# CONTENTS

The Course works best when your groups read the book at the same time. Get discounted copies via [jesuswaycourse.org](http://jesuswaycourse.org)



## INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING THE JESUS WAY

### TEACHING NOTES FOR PART ONE

1. ENJOY JESUS' RESURRECTION - he is alive
2. ACCEPT JESUS' FORGIVENESS - Jesus died for you
3. WELCOME HIS SPIRIT - Jesus lives in you
4. FEED ON HIS SCRIPTURES - you need God's truth
5. PARTICIPATE IN HIS MEAL - this is your spiritual food
6. BEAR WITNESS TO HIS REIGN - others too need to come under his rule

### TEACHING NOTES FOR PART TWO

1. SHARE WITH JESUS' PEOPLE - they are now your family
2. WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY - it's what you were made for
3. FOLLOW HIS TEACHING - it's the only way to freedom
4. LIVE HIS LIFE - you are a new person
5. RESIST HIS ENEMY - all evil was defeated on the cross
6. TRUST HIM FOR THE FUTURE - his victory is assured

## Video

As well as the book for each participant, there is a video series available for use at the start of each session. These are available at [jesuswaycourse.org](http://jesuswaycourse.org)

# TEACH THE JESUS WAY

These resources are provided to help leaders make the most of the content of *The Jesus Way* by Dr Peter Walker. The material would work well for a 12-week discussion course – or it can be subdivided and used for shorter periods.

On page 250-251 of *The Jesus Way* there is a suggested format if you prefer instead to hold two 8-week courses, based on Parts I and II respectively.

## The Teaching Outlines

The Teaching outlines are provided as the basis for a talk. This teacher's outline closely matches the full content of each chapter in *The Jesus Way*. It is expected (and indeed hoped!) that you will want to use examples, stories and other illustrative material so that the content is tailored and communicated effectively.

An optional Group Activity is also suggested. This could take place at the end of the session, or later in the week, as appropriate.

Everybody will want to teach this material differently: please feel free to adapt it and communicate it in your own unique way. If there is too much material for your context, you can omit whole sections according to your own professional judgement. A 'Word' document of the material is provided so that you can edit freely.

## PowerPoint Presentations

The slides are based on the Teaching material section of the Leaders' notes and can be used during the talk, if you would find that helpful. Again material can be adapted freely.

## Video

We have also provided a short video (with a six to eight minute presentation by Dr Peter Walker introducing the main ideas of each chapter). These can be used at the start or end of your talk, or indeed at any point where you think it would be helpful.

Alternatively, individuals can be encouraged to watch these short videos on their own at their own convenience.

## Small Group Leader's Guide

Find these at [jesuswaycourse.org](http://jesuswaycourse.org)

Use the separate Small Group Leader's Guide if you are running this course in small groups. in small groups. This is designed for your own private use, helping you to prepare in advance for your group meeting. It provides you with questions designed to help you facilitate small group discussions. These include ice-breakers, questions on the theme, Bible study around key passages and reflections for applying the material to life between sessions and into the future.

## Session 1: Enjoy Jesus' resurrection

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"  
(Luke 24:5-6)

### Resurrection at the centre

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- Jesus really was raised from the dead
- "Jesus' resurrection is the central claim of authentic Christian faith."

### Following a living Jesus

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- No resurrection → no good news and no Christianity
- (Evidence for the resurrection in Appendix B, page 200)

### The God who raised Jesus

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- The resurrection teaches four powerful truths about God himself:

1. It is strong evidence for God's existence

2. It introduces us to God's holiness

3. It reveals God's love

4. It reveals God's purposes

## The Jesus who was raised

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- The resurrection also teaches us a lot about Jesus himself

## Meeting the Risen Jesus

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- The implications of the resurrection are huge

## Living for him

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- Being a Christian is about enjoying a relationship with the Risen Jesus

**Enjoy Jesus' resurrection – he is alive!**

## Optional activity

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Role play discussion: Taking the arguments against the bodily resurrection of Jesus (page 200), you could ask one person to argue against the fact that Jesus rose – and someone else to put forward the positive evidence from the New Testament. Everyone could take part in this activity in pairs. Or, if in groups of three, the third person could give feedback – or join in the discussion.

### Key Bible verses: The Resurrection in the New Testament

- Jesus said to [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die... Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26)
- Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:27–28)
- After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)
- But God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. (Acts 10:40–42)
- The gospel... regarding his Son... who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord... Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father... For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (Romans 1:2, 4; 6:4, 9)
- [Christ Jesus] has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel... Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3–7, 20)
- For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, although some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles... Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. (2 Timothy 1:10; 2:8)
- “Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!” (Revelation 1:17–18)

## Session 2: Accept his forgiveness

“The Messiah will suffer... and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations” (Luke 24:46–47)

### Jesus teaches about his death – *after* the event

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- The Risen Jesus explains the significance of his death in Luke 24

### Jesus’ own teaching about his death – *before* the event

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- Jesus taught about his forthcoming death on several occasions

### The apostles’ subsequent teaching

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- The apostles used these four different images to explain the cross:

1. Broken family relationships

2. The slave market

3. The law courts

4. The Jerusalem Temple

## The heart of the cross

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- The key truths that the apostles taught about the cross are these:
  1. The apostles always link the cross with our “sins”
  2. The apostles understand that Jesus did something for us which we could never do for ourselves
  3. The apostles express their wonder that on the cross this was God *himself* at work

## Coming to the cross

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- The cross was the goal of God’s long-term plan – we come to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins

## Living under the cross

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- The Christian life begins and continues at the cross of the Risen Jesus

**Accept his forgiveness – Jesus died for you!**

## Optional activity

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The group could listen to some songs/hymns about the cross together and discuss:

- In what ways do these songs help you to focus on the truths of what Jesus did for us on the cross?
- Which are most helpful to you?

You may also like to sing together as a group.

## Session 3: Welcome his Spirit

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised.” (Luke 24:49)

### Jesus teaches his followers about the coming Holy Spirit

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- Jesus taught his disciples about the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper (John 14–16)

### The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

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1. He is a Person

2. He is the Power of God

3. He is the Presence of God

### Common questions

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The Spirit within – picture or reality?

The Spirit's permanence – in every believer?

Spiritual “gifts” – all of them for everyone?

## Learning from the Spirit

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- The role of Holy Spirit:

1. He always wants to point us towards Jesus
  
2. He wants us to enjoy our relationship with God as our Father
  
3. He wants to help us to pray
  
4. He wants to enable us to live like Jesus

God *with* us, God *for* us, God *in* us!

**Welcome his Spirit – Jesus lives in you!**

## Optional activity

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You may like to reflect on John 14:15-31 and John 20:19-22 together as a group. Perhaps you could ask one member of the group to read the verses slowly, pausing at the end of each verse to give time for reflection. Encourage the members of your group to listen to the words of Jesus, imagining what it must have been like for the disciples hearing his words for the first time. Encourage them to be open to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their lives.

OR

Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, thinking about how people experienced the work of the Spirit in their lives at that time. You might like to ask your group to work in pairs and look up some of the following verses to see what they learn about the role of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Spirit in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13, Psalm 33:6)

2. The Spirit in giving life (See Genesis 2:7, Job 33:4, Psalm 104:29–30)
3. The Spirit in equipping, inspiring and indwelling particular individuals: for example, Joshua (Numbers 27:18); Gideon (Judges 6:34); Samson (Judges 14:5–6); Caleb (Numbers 14:24); giving creative gifts to individuals (Exodus 31:1–5). Also, God's Spirit left individuals: for example, Saul (1 Samuel 16:14)
4. The Spirit as God's presence with his people (for example, Psalm 139:7–10)
5. The Spirit in guiding and teaching the prophets (for example, Ezekiel 2:2, 2 Samuel 23:2, Nehemiah 9:20, 30)
6. The Spirit in encouraging and enabling holiness (for example, Psalm 143:10, Ezekiel 36:27) and convicting of sin (for example, Genesis 6:3, Micah 3:8)
7. The Spirit in the life and work of the future Messiah (for example, Isaiah 11:2, 61:1)

## Session 4: Feed on his Scriptures

“[Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself... They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he... opened the Scriptures to us?’ (Luke 24:27, 32)

### A surprising lesson

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- Jesus wants us to make use of the God-given resource of his Word because:
  1. The Scriptures are important, even though we now have the Risen Jesus
  2. The Scriptures are important, even though we now have the Holy Spirit
  3. The Scriptures are important, precisely because of the example of the Risen Jesus

### Scripture according to Jesus

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- What should our doctrine of Scripture be?

### Approaching the Old Testament

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- Jesus’ attitude to the Old Testament is clear from the Gospels

## Approaching the New Testament

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- How should we view the New Testament?

## Living under Scripture

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- Jesus uses the images of a “seed” and a “vine” in connection with God’s word
- It is important that we approach the Bible with the right attitude:
  1. We have an open Bible, but that does not mean we fully understand it
  2. We have a complete (or “finished”) Bible, but that does not mean the Holy Spirit has stopped speaking
  3. We have the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but that does not mean we don’t need the help of others

**Feed on his Scriptures – you need God’s truth!**

## Optional activity

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The group could watch one of The Bible Project videos on YouTube. Discuss with the group whether they think it is a good way to help people access the message of the Bible. Alternatively, they could discuss different ways that people have immersed themselves in Scripture – for example, reading the Bible in a year, listening to an audio book version of the Bible, studying a book of the Bible alongside a commentary.

Key texts – The God who speaks his Word: Old and New Testament references (from Box 4a)

*The psalmists praise God for his revelation*

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands.

They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. (Psalm 115:3–5)

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:8, 10–11)

Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens...

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long...

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth...

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path...

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. (Psalm 119:89, 97, 103, 105, 160)

*God's word through the prophets*

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your way and my thoughts than your thoughts...

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will... achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:9, 11)

These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. (Isaiah 66:2)

Is not my word like fire... and like a hammer that breaks a rocks in pieces? (Jeremiah 23:29)

*Peter and Paul's approach to the Old Testament*

No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20–21)

The Holy Scriptures... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus... All Scripture is God-breathed... and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15–17)

## Session 5: Participate in his meal

“Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.” (Luke 24:35)

### An earlier meal: the Last Supper

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- Jesus’ last meal with his disciples was hugely significant

### Another earlier meal: the “feeding of the 5,000”

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- Another meal that was very significant in Jesus’ ministry was the feeding of the 5,000

### Key questions about the Lord’s Supper

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- Believers may have many questions about the Lord’s Supper.
- Here are some guidelines about how we should receive the Lord’s Supper:

1. We should all examine our lives carefully

2. We should be aware of the Lord’s presence

3. We should note that true believers are all part of Christ's "body"

**Participate in his meal – this is your spiritual food!**

### Optional activity

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Depending on your setting, it may be appropriate for the group to break bread together as a group.

## Session 6: Bear witness to his reign

“You are witnesses of these things.” (Luke 24:48)

### God’s heart for all people

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- It is clear throughout the Bible that God is a “missionary God” who loves all he has made

### Jesus’ mission through his followers

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- Jesus’ mission can only go forward if Jesus’ followers share his message with others

### Hesitating to proclaim Jesus’ reign – by word or deed

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- Some of us find this difficult – but it is important that we bear witness to Jesus

### Biblical encouragements to witness to Jesus

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- Two encouraging examples of people sharing the good news with others

1. John the Baptist – Sharing the Good News is pointing others to Jesus

2. Simon Peter – Sharing the Good News is bringing people to Jesus

## Finding the words

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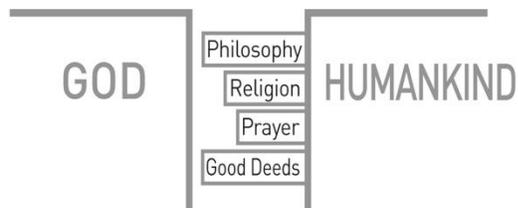
- How should we share the gospel?

## A gospel presentation: the “bridge” diagram

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Our sin forms a vast gap between us and God.



Nothing we can do can reach across this chasm; because nothing we can do can deal with sin.

People have tried everything!



His death therefore establishes a bridge by which we can enter God's presence and know him for ourselves.

**Bear witness to his reign – others too need to come under his rule!**

## Optional activity

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You might like to suggest ways that members of the group could be involved in telling others the good news about Jesus together. This could take various forms. For example:

- giving out invitations to a church service/event to homes in the neighbourhood, or at a suitable nearby location (for example, a train station or shopping centre)
- having a meal together where a short talk is given (and/or where someone explains how they came to faith in Jesus) and inviting friends who are not yet believers to it
- conducting a survey at a local shopping centre (for example, “What do you think is the greatest problem facing our world today?”) with the most popular answer(s) being addressed at a church service/event soon after

## Session 7: Share with Jesus' people

"They devoted themselves to... fellowship." (Acts 2:42)

### What happened next?

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How did Jesus' first followers respond to Jesus' death and resurrection (in Acts 2)?

### Peter proclaims Jesus as king

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Peter focuses on:

- The new life of Jesus' resurrection
- The necessity of Jesus' death
- The new gift of the Holy Spirit

### Jesus' followers respond: a vital model for us today

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- The way that the followers of Jesus lived provides a model for us

### The fellowship of the Holy Spirit: practical sharing

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- "Fellowship" – the unique relationship that exists between believers

## Jesus' new family: God's commitment to building his people

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- How should we view other Christians?
1. Do we consider other believers as members of our new "family"?
  
  2. Do we realize how important it is to God himself that he builds a new people?

## Loving God's people

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- Loving Jesus means loving his people

**Share with Jesus' people – they are now your family!**

## Optional activity

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Think about how you can build better relationships with your church family so that you know the real needs of others and how you can share. For example:

- have regular "bring-and-share" lunches giving time for unhurried conversations
- set up a Facebook page/email where people can pass on possessions to church members who are in need
- join with others in providing meals for the elderly, new mums or anyone who is sick. (Perhaps you could organise a rota. There are some websites that you could use: <https://takethemameal.com>)
- make a commitment to share with less fortunate brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world

## **Some New Testament passages on God's call to love and unity (from box 7)**

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight

in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12–14)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:16–18)

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love . . . This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins . . . No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us . . . God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them . . . We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:8, 10, 12, 16, 19)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

... may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23)

## Session 8: Worship his majesty

“They devoted themselves to... prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

### Worship: the true and living God

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- Three key truths:

1. Worship of the holy God: present in our midst

2. Worship of the holy God: approached through sacrifice

3. Worship of the holy God: by his Spirit

### Worship on our own: personal prayer

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- The model of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9–13
- The **PRAY** principle: **P**raise; **R**epent; **A**sk for others; and for **Y**ourself.

### Worship with others: corporate prayer

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- In small groups or in church services

**Worship his majesty – it's what you were made for!**

### Optional activity

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The group may like to sing and pray together.

## Session 9: Follow his teaching

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” (Acts 2:42)

As Christians, we want to follow Jesus’ teaching – both what he taught during his earthly ministry but also what he teaches us through his apostles and the rest of Scripture.

### The Creed: a summary of the apostles’ teaching

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- Creeds summarise the apostles’ teaching
- The Nicene Creed summarises what we are to believe under three headings: we believe in God the Father Almighty, in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit

### Believe: in God the Father

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- God is the “maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen”

### Believe: in God the Son

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- Jesus is truly human but truly divine; he entered the real world of human history

### Believe: in God the Holy Spirit – and the Trinity

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- The Spirit is the “giver of life” and is to be worshipped as a divine Person

- The apostles taught about the three persons of the Trinity

## Conclusion

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- Will we submit to the apostles' teaching?

**Follow his teaching – it's the only way to freedom!**

## Optional activity

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Have a time of praise and prayer based on each section of the Nicene Creed – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

## Session 10: Live his life

“...many wonders and signs [were] performed by the apostles... All the believers... had everything in common... to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together... praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.” (Acts 2:43–47)

**WWJD – What Would Jesus Do?**

### Walking the talk: obeying Jesus’ commands

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- We should walk as Jesus walked

### Living the life: the amazing secret

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- We cannot do this in our own strength – but God has given us his Spirit

Three images which help us picture the powerful reality of Jesus’ risen life within us:

#### A. Raised to life: we have a new status and identity

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- God includes us in Jesus’ resurrection by raising us from death to life

#### B. New birth: we are new people deep within

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- God places the resurrection life of Jesus within us – he comes to dwell in us by his Spirit

## C. Life in the Spirit: we have a new power

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- We are called to be holy, but we can only live this new life through the God-given strength of the Spirit

**Live his life – you are a new person!**

### Optional activity

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Consider the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23. You may like to read the passage out loud and then encourage members of the group to ask God to show them which of these they particularly need to try and develop in their lives. Spend time praying that God would bring about fruitfulness by his Spirit. Perhaps this could be done during a time of quiet or with some background music/songs.

OR

Read the following section of *The Jesus Way* together. Ask members of the group to discuss in what ways they find the ‘four directions’ to be a useful way to consider the essential pattern of Jesus’ life.

**UP:** This upward direction was seen in Jesus’ consistent worship of God. From the outset, as seen in his temptations, Jesus insisted that “God alone was to be worshipped” (Matthew 4:10); he was moved to righteous anger when he saw the Temple in Jerusalem being used for lesser purposes than worship (Matthew. 21:12–13); he sought always to do what he saw his Father doing and to bring him glory (see, for example, John 5:19; 12:28; 17:1–4).

**DOWN:** This downward direction was seen in his self-denial. Again, from his temptations onward, Jesus consistently resisted the easier paths of comfort or popular acclaim but resolutely chose the pain-filled way that would lead to the cross (Matthew 4:1–11; 16:21); he did not serve himself but was the servant of others (Mark 10:45).

**IN:** This inward direction was seen in the way Jesus guarded his inner heart. The Old Testament Book of Proverbs had warned: “above all else, guard your heart; for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23). In keeping with this Jesus himself spoke, with evident integrity, about how “a good man brings good things out of the good stored in his heart” and warned that, just as bad fruit comes from a bad tree, so evil actions come from an evil heart (Luke 6:43–45). Jesus knew how important it is for us to guard our hearts. And that’s precisely what we see him doing in his own life: when faced with colossal pressures from without (the demands of a teaching and healing ministry; dealing with fierce opposition and eventually the plots upon his life), we see Jesus often retreating for prayer and solitude, seeking time with his Father (Mark 1:35; 3:13; 9:2). He ensured, if you like, that there was pure water at the bottom of his inner well (compare John 4:14; 7:37–39).

**OUT:** This outward direction was seen in his mission and his commitment to others. People could sense his out-going love and compassion as power went out from him to help those in need; as he went through Galilee and the regions beyond with his disciples (Mark 5:30; 7:24–37); as he spoke of God's concern for the poor and the outcast (Luke 4:18; 6:20; 7:22), and demonstrated this by spending time at meals with people such as Zacchaeus (Luke 7:34; 15:2; 19:1-10).

## Session 11: Resist his enemy

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you... for the forgiveness of your sins.’ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’” (Acts 2:38, 40)

### Recognizing the real enemy

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- Being a follower of Jesus involves a lifelong battle against evil – in all its forms

### Sin, the world, and the Devil

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- A threefold description of evil and the “enemy” of Jesus that we must resist:

1. Sin

2. The world

3. The Devil

### Practical strategies

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Some Biblical tips for resisting the devil and the lure of temptation:

1. Remember you are not alone

2. Reckon your “old natures” as dead in God’s sight

3. Feed your mind and imagination on God's truth

4. Remove yourself from situations, if necessary

5. Be disciplined with yourself

6. Keep short accounts with God

7. Don't always stay "on the back foot"

## Conclusion

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- The apostles saw the Christian life as a kind of warfare – we need to be "soldiers of Christ"

**Resist his enemy – all evil was defeated on the cross!**

## Optional activity

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It may be helpful to use this prayer from the Church of England baptism service in some way, to encourage each other – either all together or individually.

*Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.*

***All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.***

*May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.*

**All: Amen**

## Session 12: Trust him for the future

“God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death... David said about him... ‘you will not let your holy one see decay... you will fill me with joy in your presence.’” (Acts 2:24–25, 27–28)

God has wonderful plans for his world and for believers:

### Renewal for the world

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- God will bring about a renewed creation – a “new earth”

### Reunion with Jesus

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- Jesus is coming back and believers will be reunited with him

### Resurrection for the believer

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- Death is not the end – there is life beyond the grave

## Living in hope

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- Because of these three things, we know God has a future for us, for his world and for Jesus. Therefore, we have hope.

**Trust him for the future – his victory is assured!**

## Optional activity

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Invite the group to spend some time praying to God and thanking him for all that they have learnt about him during this course. You may like to ask each member to think of one thing in particular that they would like the rest of the group to pray for them.