

WHAT IF JESUS?

WEEK 2 - WHAT IF JESUS NEVER TAUGHT?

OVERVIEW

How would the world be different if Jesus never taught? Although plenty of other teachers have come along through the years teaching kindness and non-violence, only Jesus has taught such a radical and world-transforming message of self-giving love. Only Jesus taught about a coming kingdom which completely upends human values and shows us an entirely new way to live. The teachings of Jesus are not just good advice; they are the very doorway to abundant life!

*This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you:
God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.*

1 John 1:5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does living an "abundant life" look like to you?
2. Which of Jesus' messages have been most impactful in your life?
3. What would our perception of God the Father be if Jesus had not taught about His love for us?
Refer to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and the following Parables: the Farmer Scattering Seed (Matthew 13:3-7), the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32), the Good Samaritan (Matthew 10:25-37) and the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14).
4. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 John 1:5. What makes Jesus' teachings different from any other?
5. Why, as Tim stated, is it significant that Jesus "came with a specific message from someone specific" (John 7:16; 7:28-29)?
6. Read Colossians 2:6-7. If Jesus never taught, how could we follow Him? What truth would our lives be built on?
7. Jesus can still teach us today. Discuss what had to happen to make this possible.
8. How would the "worlds of the text" be different if Jesus never taught? (the world behind the text, the world of the text, the world in front of the text)

RESOURCES

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