

WHAT IF JESUS?

WEEK 1 - WHAT IF JESUS NEVER LIVED?

OVERVIEW

How would the world be different if Jesus had never lived? In this message, we will explore the overarching concept of this entire series and begin our discussion of what really changed in our world when the cosmic Christ was born as a human baby. Put simply: Jesus is the perfect revelation of God to humanity. When we see Jesus, we see the Father. Thus, his whole existence as a human points us directly to our Creator. If he had not come, we would still be lost in the darkness of our sin and shame. Because he came to earth as one of us, however, God began the "reconciliation of everything" in Creation.

*No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart.
He has revealed God to us.*

John 1:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would our world be different today without Jesus in the picture?
2. How would your life be different if Jesus never lived? Is Jesus a major influence in your life or a minor influence in your life today?
3. Why is it important to look at the whole story of the Bible, going back to Genesis, when we consider the impact of Jesus' life? (John 1:1-5, Genesis 1:1)
4. Read Exodus 34:6-7. Barry mentions that the Israelites took this passage really seriously. What standards do you and your family take really seriously or place a high value on?
5. John 1:17 says *"For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness (grace and truth) came through Jesus Christ"*. Consider what life might look like today without "grace and truth".
6. If you take a moment to reflect on God's unfailing love and faithfulness for YOU, to consider the prison of selfishness and sin from which Jesus' life frees YOU, what do you find?
7. Barry states that "God's desire was to bring life. The coming of Jesus was the "second chance" the people of Israel were longing for. The universal second chance, where God brought life not just to the Israelites, but to the entire world." How significant are grace and second chances?

RESOURCES

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