

# Explore God Adventurer's Guide

## SESSION FOUR

### Big Question: *Christianity – Exclusive or Open to all?*

Today, we will explore why Christians are to be evangelistic (to share the Word of God with others), and how the Christian God and His plan of redemption for humanity communicates a worldview that makes the most sense of reality.

#### Introduction

The gospel of John is one of the four gospels included in the New Testament (gospel means *good news*). The gospel proclaims the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God, to save humanity from their sin. There is spiritual separation or brokenness between God and His creation that resulted from the sin of Adam which all humankind inherited (Romans 5). When we look at the problems and evil in the world, there is no denying that something is wrong.

- *How do we make sense of reality?*
- *How do others make sense of these things?*
- *Where can we find redemption?*

#### Take a few minutes to discuss these questions.

God's plan of redemption has been revealed to humanity through Jesus Christ, and it's a plan that all those who choose to trust Christ believe, step into by faith, and embrace with their whole lives.

Think about week two's conversation regarding the question, *How does my belief in God shape my everyday life?* For those who trust Jesus for forgiveness and salvation from their sins, God has blessed them with irrevocable adoption into His family. Adoption is an act of God whereby He makes us members of His family. These family blessings are exclusive to those who believe in Christ and live accordingly, and it's an invitation that's available to all.

Christianity claims to be the only way to God. Is that extremely narrow and intolerant? The Curiosity Collective brings together thought leaders, subject matter experts, pastors, and theologians to explore whether Christianity is too narrow.

Watch the *Pulse of the World* video below then hit pause to consider the questions displayed on the screen. Continue on with the *The Curiosity Collective* segment by pressing play.

#### Watch (13:50)

[Is Christianity Too Narrow?](#)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways can you identify with any of the stories in The Curiosity Collective? What did you find intriguing or compelling?
2. Does the media represent Christianity accurately? Do Christians represent Christianity accurately?

3. In the video, Corey suggests, “When people say that all religions are the same, that sounds really humble and tolerant.” Why does he go on to say that those claims are actually exclusive?
4. How have people used religion for good, and for bad?

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5. What are some examples of situations in which most people believe that narrow ideas are good?
6. What exclusive claims do you hold? Do you allow yourself to be vulnerable when discussing your views with others?

**Read:** John 3:15-21; 11:17-27

#### **Questions for Discussion: Exclusivity**

1. What can we learn from this passage regarding *how* we receive the blessing of entering into the kingdom of God?
2. What does this say about the importance of sharing and hearing testimonies? What role do you think these play in God’s salvation plan?
3. How is Christianity exclusive in its claims to forgiveness and salvation from sin?

**Read:** John 12:44–50; 14:1-7, Romans 5

#### **Questions for Discussion: Open to All**

1. Who has Jesus invited into the kingdom of God?
2. How should the exclusivity and openness of the gospel shape how we live?

#### **Wrap Up**

In our discussion, we’ve wrestled with how the blessings of a relationship with God include salvation and it belongs to those who call Jesus their Savior and Lord. This is how Christianity is exclusive. But we also discussed how God has invited all of humanity into a relationship with Him through Jesus. This is how Christianity is open to all! This is a challenging theological truth to embrace because this kind of claim to exclusivity has enormous implications. Yet as Christians, we cannot ignore Jesus’ claims to being the only way to God, and what that means for those who reject Jesus, and for those who believe that he is who he says he is.

#### **Explore More on Trust**

The following resources are designed for deeper exploration of the topic of Christianity and culture. If you are doing this series offline, you can email these resources to your group after the session. Simply copy this section and paste it into an email.

#### **Videos**

Do Christians Represent Christ?

(<http://www.exploregod.com/do-christians-represent-christ-video>)

Acceptance in Culture (<http://www.exploregod.com/acceptance-in-culture-video>)

**Articles**

What Is Christianity? (<http://www.exploregod.com/what-is-christianity>)

What Makes Christianity Different?

(<http://www.exploregod.com/what-makes-christianity-different-from-other-religions>)