

Explore God Adventurer's Guide

SESSION FIVE

Big Question: *How do I make and keep Jesus as the center of my life?*

John 14:6 describes Jesus as an all encompassing God. He is **the way**: there is no other. He is **the truth**: absolute and unchanging. He is **the life**; apart from him is death. During our discussion, we want to explore what it means to make and keep Jesus as the center of life. As followers of Jesus, we can do this only by consistently placing him before us everyday as the way, the truth, and the life. We need to see and submit to Jesus as the Living God every day.

Introduction

Our goal today is to explore what a life with Jesus at the center looks like. John 15:1-17 explicitly reveals Jesus as the Son of God and whom we are to “abide” in or remain in, meaning to reside/dwell/stay in which includes listening to and learning from and submitting to. John’s gospel contains seven “I am...” statements. The last of which is found in John 15: “I am the true vine.” Jesus is *the* place of nourishment and flourishing (life!). John uses Old Testament imagery of a fruit vine to help his audience contrast Jesus with Israel and their lack of fruitfulness and spiritual degeneracy. Although the Israelites had the law and commands from God, they were unable to abide by them, fulfill them, or produce fruit without Jesus.

Similarly, we are incapable of being “good enough” to receive the grace and forgiveness of God without Jesus! As we delve into John 15, remember that our reflections are about living by faith in the God who revealed himself in the teachings, the work, and the person of Jesus Christ.

Let’s check out this video to explore a little more about who Jesus is. We will spend the remainder of our time exploring a few of the passages they reference to go deeper into what it means to make and keep Jesus the center of our life.

Watch Video (9:24)

[Is Jesus Really God?](#)

Is Jesus really God? Is he truly the Lord? Or is he a liar or a lunatic? Jesus claimed to be one with God the Father. How can we know if he was telling the truth? The Curiosity Collective brings together authors, pastors, and theologians to examine whether Jesus was really God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything from the video that resonated with your own thoughts and questions?
2. What did Leonce mean when he said: “Religion says ‘I do, therefore I’m loved.’ Jesus says, ‘You’re loved, therefore you do.’?”
3. The resurrection of Jesus is the pinnacle event upon which the Christian faith is built upon. What do you make of Christianity’s claims to the risen Jesus?
4. Eric shared: “There’s more to this than logic. Believing that Jesus is God is one of those things that at the end of the day, God has to reveal it.” What’s your response to Eric’s insight?
5. How does Jesus *compel us*?

Scripture

John 14:6, Galatians 2:20; 3:10-14, John 15:1-17

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Read John 14:6, Galatians 2:20, and 3:10-14:

1. What do these passages say regarding faith?
2. How has Jesus become the source of our faith?
3. Discuss what it means that "the righteous shall live by faith."

Read John 15:1-17:

1. Discuss how this passage describes Jesus.
2. What does it reveal regarding a lifestyle of faith (not simply belief)?
3. Jesus said: "You are my friends if you do what I command." Jesus calls us his friends, and yet he is also so much more than a friend. How do his words here (vv. 15-17) instruct us to think about friendship with Jesus?

Wrap Up

It's so important that we reflect on what absolutes (truths) actually orient our life. How we live on the daily – including what motivates us, what we desire, how we respond to stress and problems, how we spend money and time, how we view and treat relationships in our lives, etc – are a reflection of what those truths are. As God's word reveals, He is the only absolute that we are to be building our life on. He is the one in whom all truth is found; and as the origin of truth we can and should put our faith and hope in him at all times. We are well aware that this is not always easy to do. Thankfully, God is present with us in that pursuit. He gives us the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to lead us along the way in this journey through life.

End your time by reading John 14:15-31 together. We can take great hope in Jesus and what He has done for us. He has not only provided us with new life in him, but we have the help of the Holy Spirit in us to live obedient to Jesus' commandments.

In reflection of our discussion tonight and the passages we've encountered, how would you answer the question: *How do I make and keep Jesus the center of my life?*

Explore More on Jesus

Videos

How Is Jesus Different? (<http://www.exploregod.com/video-how-is-jesus-different>) Can You Like Jesus But Hate Religion? (<https://www.exploregod.com/videos/can-you-like-jesus-but-hate-religion>)

Articles

Who Is Jesus? (<http://www.exploregod.com/who-is-jesus>)
What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus? (<https://www.exploregod.com/articles/what-does-it-mean-to-follow-jesus>)