

# Questions people ask

## **Week 1**

What's so special about Christianity: isn't it just another religion and just a matter of opinion?

## **Week 2**

Why is there so much suffering in the world – does Jesus care about my pain

## **Week 3**

Isn't Christianity intolerant and arrogant?

## **Week 4**

Hasn't Science answered all the fundamental questions of life?

Questions people ask: Week 1

What's so special about  
Christianity?

# Truth

- Truth versus opinion
- Truth versus faith
- Christians believe the gospel is absolute truth not relative opinions
- Christians affirm that gospel truth is based on evidence that can be tested and experience that can be explained

# Apologetics

- Gospel is declaration of truth claims and explanation why they are true
- Includes debating, reasoning arguing
  - Acts 17:2,17,18; 18:4,19,28
- eye witness and scriptural evidence that can be held up scrutiny
- Never describes faith without an object
- Gospel is to be defended
  - 1 Peter 3:15
  - Answer = defence (apologia)
  - Reason = words to explain (Logos)

# Religion?

## **Religion**

*"a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs"*

- Is Christianity a "religion"?
- Is the Bible aware of other religions?
- Why can't all religions lead to God in their own path?
- What explains the existence of religions?

# Special Story

- The Bible conveys the truth
- The Bible tells a unique story
- New Testament contains eye witness accounts
  - 1 John 1:1
  - 2 Peter 1:16
  - Luke 1:1-4
- Careful copying
- Trustworthy Translation of the facts/ideas

# Special Saviour: Jesus fulfils the promises

	Old Testament	New Testament
Prophecy	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:18, 25
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:1
He would be preceded by a Messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matt. 3:1-2
Rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 7:5; 7:48
Betrayed by a close friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:26-30
His side pierced	Zech. 12:10	John 19:34
Crucifixion	Psalms 22:1, Psalms 22:11-18	Luke 23:33; John 19:23-24
Resurrection of Christ	Psalms 16:10	Acts 13:34-37

# Special Saviour: Jesus says and does unique things

- Claimed to be one with God the Father (John 10:30; 10:38)
- Cast out demons (Matt. 8:28-32; 15:22-28)
- Healed lepers (Matt. 8:3; Luke 17:14)
- Healed diseases (Matt. 4:23, 24; Luke 6:17-19)
- Raised the dead (Matt. 9:25; John 11:43-44)
- Restored sight to blind (Matt. 9:27-30; John 9:1-7)
- Cured deafness (Mark 7:32-35)
- Fed the multitude (Matt. 14:15-21; Matt. 15:32-38)
- Walked on water (Matt. 14:25-27)
- Controlled nature (Matt. 8:22-27; Mark 4:39)



# Special Saviour: the resurrection

- Jesus predicts he will rise from the dead
- He dies and is buried and is seen
- He rises and appears to many people

# Special Salvation

- In some way or other all religions are based on merit
  - Christianity is based on grace
- All other religions are based on God being imperfect
  - Christianity is based on God remaining perfectly righteous

# Discussion

- How could you answer
  - Isn't the bible just full of ancient myths and moral teaching?
  - How do you know that Jesus was right in what he says about himself?
  - It's great that you have a faith but it's not for me
  - All religions are the same
- Conversation starters
  - What's your experience of religious people?
  - How do you know anything is true?
  - What would convince you that the Bible is true?
  - Who are the experts you believe? Why?
- What's the role of
  - Evidence
  - Your own experience