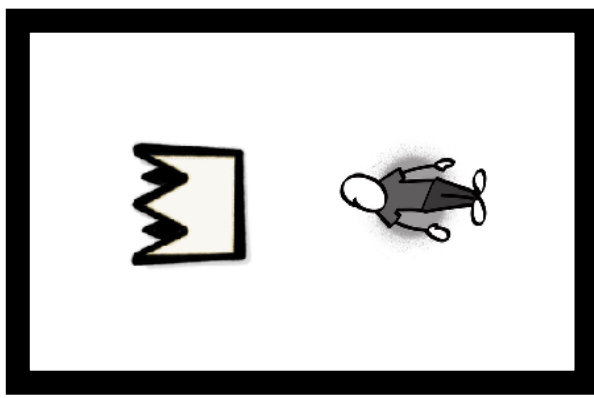
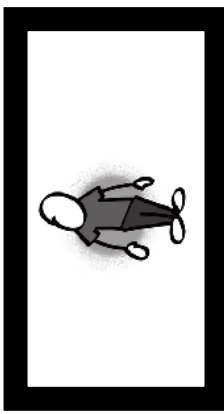
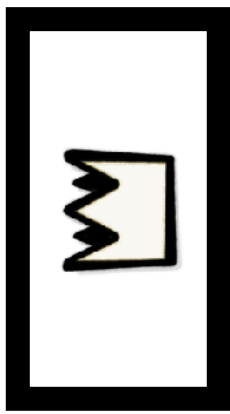
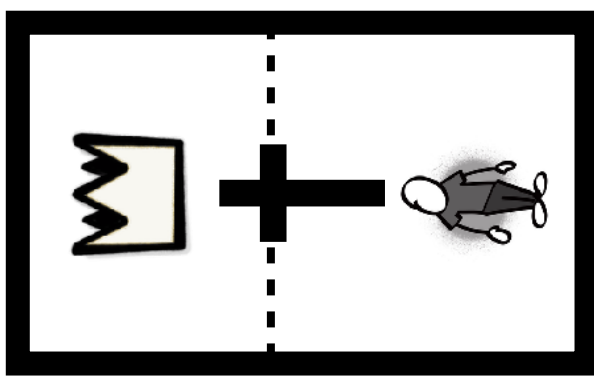
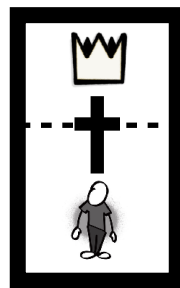
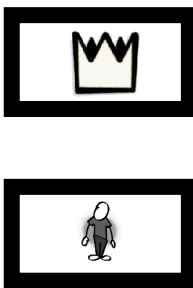
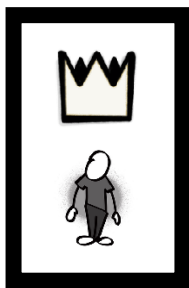


CONNECT





CONNECT *one*

In a sentence or two, what would you say Christianity is all about? (you are allowed to say “I don’t know”!)

The Bible says that Christianity is all about how we can be connected with God. Have a look at this video...

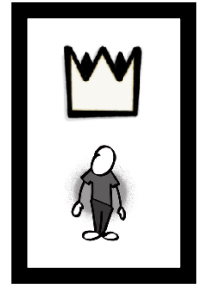
CONNECTED

What’s your picture of a perfect world?

Look at the other pictures in the group - what do they all have in common?

It's not just you - this is the world we all want. And, this is actually what the world was like when God made the world and put us in it.

Look at what God says to the people he made in Genesis 1:27-31...what was the world like back then?



Now read Acts 17:24-28. Why did God make us?

God made people to be connected to him in a relationship where he is the king - where he cares for us and shows us the best way to live.

DISCONNECTED

Unfortunately, we didn't stay connected to God like we could have. Instead, we've broken away from him and we've become his enemies. This is what the Bible calls "sin" - it's when we disobey God and don't treat him as our king.



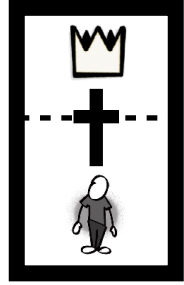
Read Romans 1:29-31 - this is how the Bible describes what sin looks like.

Read Romans 3:10-12. Who has been disconnected from God?

*Romans 6:23 says that "the wages of sin is death", which means that because **WE ALL** have broken away from God, we deserve punishment - life will end, and after that, we will face his judgement.*

RECONNECTED

Even though we've sinned and disconnected ourselves from God, he still wants to have a relationship with us. That's why he sent Jesus - Jesus came so that we could be reconnected with God.



Read 1 Peter 3:18. How has Jesus reconnected us to God?

Now read Romans 10:9 - is everyone automatically reconnected with God now that Jesus has died?

Being reconnected with God means that we can enjoy being friends with God now, and we can look forward to being in a perfect world forever in heaven. Read what Revelation 21:3-5 says about heaven - what do you like about it? How close is this to your idea of a perfect world?

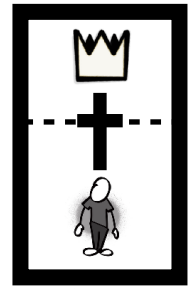
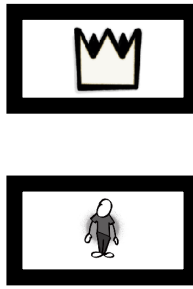
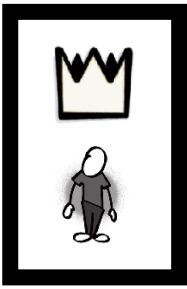
BRINGING IT HOME

What stood out the most to you from this study? What does this change for you?

What questions popped up for you during this study?

Next week...

Week 2 - how Jesus reconnects us to God



CONNECT *two*

When you think of Jesus, what does he look like?

Where do you think your idea of Jesus comes from?

*Last week, we saw that Jesus is the one who can reconnect us with God. So this week, we're going to spend a bit of time getting to know him and hearing about how he can help us. Let's look at the **3 things** that Jesus did to reconnect us to God...*

1: Jesus LIVED

Jesus did some pretty amazing things in his life on earth - if you know any, list them here...

Here's one of those amazing things - read Mark 2:1-12...

...why were these guys so keen to get their friend to Jesus?

...what did Jesus see as the paralysed man's biggest problem?

...how does Jesus show he can forgive sins? Why is that a big deal?

When Jesus lived, he showed that he was the Son of God - he proved this by his amazing miracles and his perfect life. But the miracles by themselves aren't what Jesus came for. They were a sign to show us that Jesus has the authority fix our biggest problem - sin. Which leads us to the next thing Jesus did...

2: Jesus DIED

Like we read last week, Jesus can only forgive our sins because he paid for them when he died on the cross. **Read Mark 15:13-37 - what happens to Jesus in these verses? What does that tell you about him?**

On the cross, Jesus' took our sins onto himself - he was disconnected from God instead of us. He was innocent, but he took the death that we deserved to die. But once again, Jesus' death by itself wasn't enough to reconnect us to God. Jesus had to do something to show that his death had fully paid for our sins. That's why Jesus had to come back to life...

3: Jesus CAME BACK TO LIFE

Read Acts 10:39-43 (this is spoken by Peter, one of Jesus' disciples). What does this tell you about Jesus?

Why is it so important that Jesus came back from the dead? On one hand, it's the proof that Jesus' really did pay for your sins in full - because his death paid for all your sins, there's nothing left to keep him dead. But on the other hand, his resurrection is important because what it means for the future...

What Happens Next?

Look at Acts 10:39-43 again...

...what will Jesus do in the future?

...what should be scary about this?

...what is the good news?

So the question is, how do we get into heaven...how do you make sure that this is you? Read Ephesians 2:8-9 then look at the table below:

*It is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Grace = a free gift that is undeserved

The wrong answer: what _____ do	The right answer: what _____ has done
What does Ephesians say will not save us?	What does Ephesians say will save us?
What are some examples of good things that people might do to get themselves into heaven?	What does this verse say we can't do? What does this verse say we need to do?

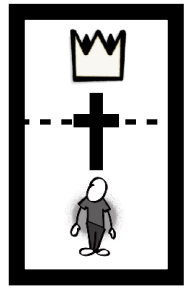
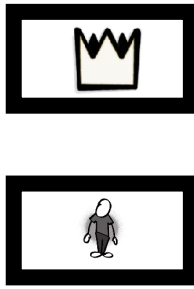
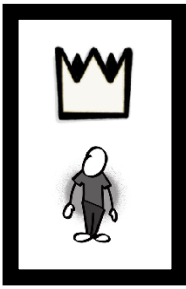
BRINGING IT HOME

What stood out the most to you from this study? What does this change for you?

What questions did you have during this study?

Next week...

Week 3 - Living connected with God



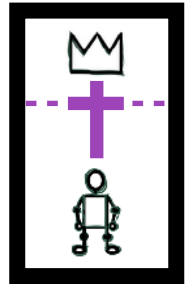
CONNECT *three*

Last week, we zoomed in on picture #3 and spent some time thinking about how Jesus can reconnect us with God. Turn to the person next to you and take turns explaining what Jesus did to reconnect us to God...try and include 3 things!

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____



*The message of Christianity is all about how Jesus reconnects us to God - not because of anything we have done, but because of what Jesus has done on the cross. But that raises a big question - does it matter how you live after you've been reconnected to God? Absolutely! The whole reason that Jesus wants to reconnect us with God is so that we can enjoy living God's way with him as our king. Let's look at what the Bible says about **living reconnected with God.***

1: Be A Disciple

Being connected to God means being a DISCIPLE - that means, to turn away (repent) from sin and start following Jesus, listening to him and living his way.

Read these verses - what do they say about what it means to follow Jesus?

Matthew 22:36-39

Mark 10:42-45

Philippians 1:21

2: Be Part Of The Family

One of the great things about being a disciple of Jesus is that you're not alone - you're part of a family of disciples.

Read these verses - what do we do as part of this family?

Romans 12:4-6

John 13:34-35

Hebrews 10:24-25

3: Make Disciples

Being reconnected with God is an awesome thing - and so we shouldn't keep it to ourselves...

Read Matthew 28:18-20 - if someone is a disciple of Jesus, what should their life be about?

Looking back at these three points (being a disciple, being part of the family, making disciples), how does this compare with what you're currently living for?

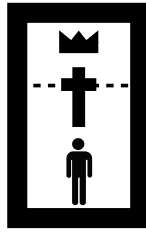
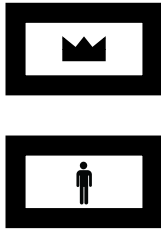
BRINGING IT HOME

Now that you've done these 3 studies, have another go at writing down what you think Christianity is all about in a sentence or two...has anything changed since the first study?



What's Next?

We'd love to know where you're up to with Jesus now that we're at the end of this course - maybe something has changed for you, maybe you're ready to start following Jesus, maybe you're still not sure if you're ready. Please take a few minutes to fill out the FEEDBACK card - this is totally optional, and if you choose to fill it out, you can feel free not to answer any of the questions. We'd love to know where you're up to so that if you want, we can help you take the next step.



Name

Date

connect

We'd love to know where you're up to now that you've finished the Connect studies. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions - this is totally optional, and you can feel free to skip any questions.

Before you began these studies, how would you have described yourself?

- I didn't believe in God
- I wasn't sure if there was a God or not
- I believed in God, but not in Jesus Christ
- I thought I was a Christian, but now I know I wasn't
- A Christian (ie. personally trusting and following Jesus)
- Something else _____

Where do you reckon you are at now with Jesus, after this course?

- I have come to believe in Jesus as my saviour and I want to start following him
- I was already a Christian, but here's how I have grown in my relationship with Jesus: _____
- I'm interested in learning more, but I'm not ready to start following Jesus yet
- Thanks, but I don't want to learn any more about Jesus
- Other _____

If you're not ready to follow Jesus, are there any other things you would want to know first?

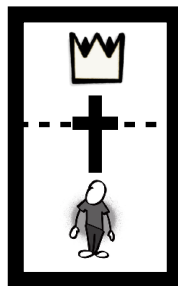
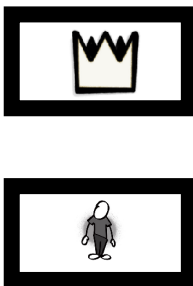
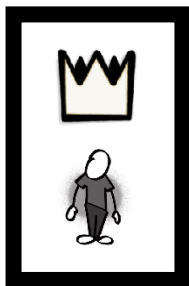
Have you reached the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you died tonight, would you go to heaven?

- YES NO

If you were to die tonight and you stood before God in heaven, and he asked "Why should I let you into heaven?" - what would you reply?

Would you be happy for a leader to talk to you about your answers?

- YES NO



CONNECT one BIBLE

CONNECTED

Genesis 1:27-31

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Acts 17:24-27

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

DISCONNECTED

Romans 1:29-31

29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

Romans 3:10-12

10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away.

RECONNECTED

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Romans 10:9

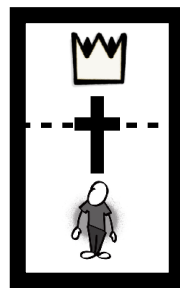
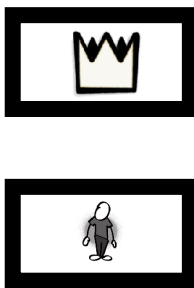
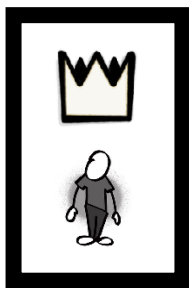
9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Revelation 21:1-5

{1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," ...]

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."



CONNECT *two* BIBLE

Jesus LIVED

Mark 2:1-12

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus DIED

Luke 23:32, 38-43

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don't you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

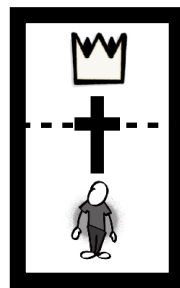
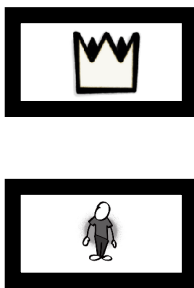
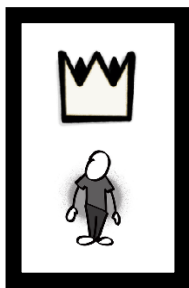
42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus CAME BACK TO LIFE

Acts 10:39-43

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”



CONNECT *three* BIBLE

#1: Be A Disciple

Matthew 22:36-39

³⁵ One of the Pharisees, an expert in the law, tested Jesus with this question:

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mark 10:42-45

⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Philippians 1:21

21 For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

#2: Be Part Of The Family

Romans 12:4-6

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

#3: Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

