

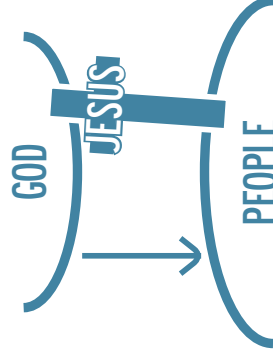
# JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

There are many different religions and belief systems in the world today. So what do we do with Jesus' claim to be the only way to God?

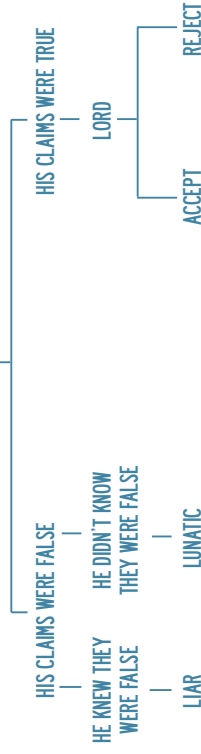
"Jesus answered, *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" | John 14:6

This diagram illustrates that although we deserve to be cut off from God forever, in His love God sent Jesus to live a perfect life and pay the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross. Through Jesus alone, God has bridged the gap that separates us from Him, and provided a way for us to be forgiven and therefore restored to relationship with Him.

Let's investigate the options of Jesus' claim to be the only way to God:



## JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD



### Conclusion:

Jesus claimed to be the only way for us to know God; He claimed to be God Himself; and he backed it up by rising from the dead.

// *Who do you say Jesus is?*

## WHAT THIS MEAN FOR US

Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection:

- We can be confident that Jesus is perfect because he is God
- We can be grateful to God for paying for our sins and forgiving us
- We can be thankful to God for making a way for us to know him when we didn't deserve it

### NEXT TIME ...

We look at how to respond to God's invitation to know Him.

Further reading...

John 18-21 and Aricles from [www.everystudent.com/Life's\\_Questions](http://www.everystudent.com/Life's_Questions)

- Is Jesus God? - Who was Jesus? - Connecting with the divine

# GOD'S RESPONSE

JESUS IS GOD'S ONLY SOLUTION FOR OUR SIN  
ONLY THROUGH HIM CAN WE KNOW GOD AND RECEIVE HIS LOVE AND FORGIVENESS.

It can sometimes seem that there are as many different theories about who Jesus was and what He did as there are people you can ask.

One thing, though is undeniable: that Jesus has greatly influenced today's world. Many people today still practise Jesus' 'Golden Rule' (treating others the way you would want to be treated. Many countries have public holidays celebrating his birth and death.

Many people have questions about Jesus, such as:

- Is Jesus really God?
- Is Jesus the only way?
- Do all paths lead to God?

In this discussion guide we will look at:

- Jesus' life
- Jesus' death and resurrection
- Jesus' claim to be the only way to know God

## JESUS' LIFE

Jesus' life was extraordinary in many ways. He is credited with many amazing miracles, incredible teaching that still is the foundation of law in many countries today, and made the incredible claim to be God appearing to us as a human being.

## JESUS' MIRACLES

He performed miracles. (See John 6:1-24)

// *What are some miracles that you have heard of Jesus doing?*

## JESUS' WISDOM

He displayed wisdom in his teaching that amazed his listeners. (Scan through the paragraph heading of Matthew chapters 5-7). He instructed people about issues such as murder, adultery, divorce, loving your enemies, giving to the needy, prayer, worry and judging others.

Nº. 1	GOD'S PERSPECTIVE	Nº. 2	OUR CONDITION	Nº. 3	GOD'S RESPONSE	Nº. 4	OUR RESPONSE
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"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law". | Matthew 7:28-29

// What can we learn about Jesus from this?

## JESUS IS GOD

### Jesus lived a perfect life

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." | 1 Peter 2:22

// What stands out to you in this verse about Jesus?

Jesus lived a perfect life, therefore, he didn't deserve any punishment for sin.

### Jesus said he was God

Jesus said: "I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." | John 10:30-33

Jesus claimed to be God. His claims were either true or false. If they were false then He either:

- knew they were false or
- didn't know they were false.

// What would Jesus be if He knew the claims were false?

// What about if they were false and He believed they were true?

// How do these conclusions match up with what we just learned about Jesus' life?

## JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

### JESUS DEATH PAID FOR OUR SINS

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." | Romans 5:8

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross" | Colossians 2:13-14

// Why did Jesus need to die for us?

The young woman stood before the judge. The evidence was clear - she was guilty of speeding. The judge delivered the sentence: 10 days in jail or a \$1000 fine. The young woman had no money, so she was going to have to go to jail. But then something amazing happened. The judge took off his wig and robe and walked down to the dock where she was standing. He took out his cheque book and wrote her a cheque for \$1000 to pay her fine. She was free to go! Why? The judge was her father. (based on a true story)

Nº. 1 GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

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// Would it have been right for the judge to ignore her crime just because he loved her?

In the same way, God's perfect justice required him to punish all sin. Yet, out of his perfect love for us, he paid the punishment for our sin through Jesus' death on the cross

## JESUS ROSE TO LIFE

"Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day... He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died." | 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

At the time that this scripture was written, many of these 500 witnesses were still alive and able to verify this claim.

// Do you think that Jesus could have come back to life?

Let's look at some alternatives...

### Jesus didn't really die on the cross, he just fell unconscious (Swoon Theory)

Jesus couldn't have been unconscious for a number of reasons: The Roman soldiers who were charged with his execution thrust a spear into his side to ensure he was dead (John 19:34-37). Neither could he have survived being embalmed. His tomb was guarded by enemy soldiers, therefore he could not have snuck out. In addition, if Jesus had just fainted, and barely survived the cross, it would have been impossible for him to inspire his disciples to worship him as God.

### The apostles were sincerely mistaken (Hallucination)

This theory cannot account for the fact that over 500 people saw him alive at one time. Also, if this were true his enemies could have produced his body and disproved the claims. In addition, some disciples were initially skeptical of Jesus' reappearance.

### It was a myth added well after the event (Myth)

Documentary evidence shows that parts of the Bible that recorded Jesus resurrection were written down as early as 56 A.D. and contain accounts from as early as 37 A.D, less than 5 years after his death. In addition, the Bible contains multiple eyewitness accounts. No time is left for myths to develop (most myths take 300+ years to develop)

### His resurrection gives evidence that:

- His death really was able to pay for our sins
- Jesus has power over death and can offer us eternal life
- He really was God

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