



Who is Jesus?

It's all about Jesus

Christianity is not about following a set of rules or obeying rituals. It's about having a personal and living relationship with Jesus, a relationship that transforms everything! And Jesus offers this relationship to anyone who sincerely asks.

The Good News

The good news is that God loves us! Whatever we've done, He still loves us! Of course, He's not happy with many things that we've done to each other and to His world. The Bible says we have all gone our own way, putting ourselves at the centre of the universe – what the Bible calls sin – and it's not only messed up God's world, it's separated us from Him.

But... God has not given up on us!

Instead He sent His Son Jesus into a middle Eastern society, to mend our relationship with Him and to bring restoration to our world! Jesus came to announce God's Kingdom – God's way of doing things. This Kingdom means His liberating rule on the earth, which will one day see God's goodness reign completely, with all brokenness, suffering and pain ending! He's invited us to join in His work of restoring the earth as co-workers.

Jesus shows us what God is like. He performed many powerful miracles – calming storms, feeding thousands, turning water into wine at a wedding, walking on water, healing people, and driving evil spirits out of people.

He loved people, cared about people, and showed compassion to people. He came from a refugee family and was also homeless. He knew what being oppressed felt like.

Sometimes, He was fierce and confrontational, challenging people who were self-righteous, or who loved power, or were corrupt and unjust, confronting evil in all its forms.

He asked people to follow him – to give up their former lives and follow him. Some did. Some found it too difficult.

Jesus was an amazing, radical and unique person.

He knew he was going to suffer, that he would die on a cross and come back to life. And that's exactly what happened. The evil power that nailed Jesus to a cross was defeated by his resurrection from the dead. People saw the torture marks on his body and knew it was true.

He died to forgive us for our sin and self-centredness. He came back to life to show that death is not the end, and that we can begin a new life, this time living for Him, not for ourselves.

We can choose this new life. It's not an easy life, but it is fulfilling.

The Change Starts With Us!

It all starts by recognizing the mess we've made of things, turning away from trying to run our life (and this world) our own way, and asking God for forgiveness and help! When we do this God has made it clear, that, because of Jesus, we can know His forgiveness and can begin a new relationship with Him as our Father, through Christ.

And God intends that our mended relationship with Him means a mended relationship with others around us and with the creation He's given us! And what's more, God promises to fill us with His Spirit so that we receive His power in order to live this new life.

Our own effort is not enough

We cannot save ourselves or bridge the separation from God through our own effort. But Jesus can and He has, doing all that was needed for our salvation, by dying on a cross. On the cross Jesus took all the consequences and judgement that our sin deserved upon Himself, so that we can stand before God – forgiven and with a new life.

What Does This Mean For Me?

This offer of new and eternal life is the wonderful, amazing, Good News of Jesus! And it's here for every single one of us, whoever we are, wherever we're from and whatever our background! You can respond to this incredible offer by simply praying to God asking for His forgiveness and help to change! And by believing and trusting in Him.

It doesn't really matter what form of words you use. God is more concerned with what's in your heart, but the prayer below is a helpful guide to what you might say.

Prayer

*Father God, thank you for loving me.
But I realise that I have turned away from you and lived my life my own way
rather than yours. I'm sorry about this.*

Thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I confess my sins to you and turn away from everything I know to be wrong. I ask for your forgiveness and commit myself to follow Jesus as my saviour and the person in charge of my life.

I believe in you – help me to trust you.

Please fill me with your Holy Spirit to empower me to live this new life. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer and meant it, then you've already begun a personal relationship with God and committed yourself to follow Jesus Christ as his disciple, his follower.

To grow in this relationship, it's important to spend time with Him, reading the Bible and praying. It's also essential to find a local church, to be baptised as a sign of your new life in Christ, and to join with other Christian believers in living this new life.

If you'd like to know a bit more, please contact Pastor Richard – richard@tab.church – or call Tabernacle Baptist Church office – 01902 428962 - to talk further.